

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 5th March, at H.I.J.M. Consulate, Foo-chow, the wife of S. TESHIMA, of a son.

At Singapore, on the 7th March, the wife of A. W. WESTERHOUT, of Malacca, of a son.

On the 13th March, 1901, at No. 11, Miller Road, Shanghai, the wife of WILLIAM ALLANSON, of a son.

DEATH.

On the 9th March, at 105, Warendor Park Road, Edinburgh, Captain ROBERT LOWE, late of barques *Osaka* and *Kate Carnie*, aged 83 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The Canadian mail of the 25th February arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 19th March (22 days); the German mail of the 18th February arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *König Albert*, on the 19th March (29 days); and the American mail of the 9th February arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 20th March (39 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Hiroshima despatch to the *Asahi* states that the Fifth Division of the Japanese Army in North China will not be withdrawn in April as originally intended, owing to the condition of affairs at Peking.

It is said that the Korean War Department has ordered the principal commanders in the Korean Army to increase their force up to ten thousand men. At present the Army consists of only five thousand men.

The Shanghai *New Press* hears that Mr. Pritchard Morgan's mining rights in Corea have been purchased by a British syndicate, organised by Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co. We cannot discover any authority for this statement from enquiries made here.

Count von Waldersee left Peking on the 14th instant for Kiaochow and returned on the 20th. Meanwhile Major-Generals Sir A. Gaselee and von Trotha make an extended tour of inspection of the garrisons in Chihli, leaving Peking on the 12th inst.

According to a despatch read in the Reichstag, the troops under Count von Waldersee's command include 17,750 Germans, 14,050 French, 12,850 British, 9,000 Russians, 6,000 Japanese, 2,350 Italians, 1,600 Americans, and 230 Austrians. 123,000,000 marks have been voted for the expenses of the German expedition to China.

Native official news received in Shanghai from Tientsin states that there are 120 battalions stationed in different parts of Chihli province who are drawing their monthly pay and allowance, and of this number Li Hung-chang—who is their nominal chief as Viceroy of Chihli—intends to disband 30 battalions this spring in his retrenchment scheme.

Mr. Balfour stated in the House this week that the action of H.M.S. *Plover* in searching for pirates in the Gulf of Pechili (which led to the trouble with the Russian Admiral over the Elliott and Blonde Islands) was in accord with Article 52 of the Tientsin Treaty. The Russian Government, he added, had made no communication on the subject to London.

As regards the new Sepoy regiments raised in India, the *Calcutta Englishman* says that they are not meant for general service abroad. It having been decided that the Indian Army is to supply garrisons for Ceylon, Mauritius, Singapore, and other Eastern possessions, an increase of the army in India was rendered necessary, but the roster will be supplied from all the native regiments in India, except such as have national or religious prejudices against crossing the seas.

The case of King Lieu-shan, the prisoner at Monte Fort, Macao, has apparently been forgotten by the general public, though his flight and arrest created no little excitement a year ago. However, it seems that King is for the present best off where he is, for he is now safe from attack by the anti-reform party's hirelings and suffers no hardships. Those who have seen him lately report that he is in enjoyment of good health. Until the reform party is at the head of affairs King will probably remain where he is, as he is indeed said to prefer so to do.

The *N.-C. Daily News* Peking correspondent writes on the 13th inst. that it is laid down as a fixed general principle in the settlement of the indemnities that claims on account of health, of delays, and of loss of prospective profits, shall be disallowed. He also states that ninety-six more names have been sent in by the Foreign Ministers, six of them for the death penalty, including some Chüchou officials; the rest the Chinese Government is to punish.

The *Echo de Chine* announces that a French steam navigation company is contemplating the establishment of a line of steamers from Hamburg, via Bordeaux, Panillac, and Marseilles, to Hankow without transshipment. Commenting on this, the *N.-C. Daily News* presumes this enterprising company will set to work at once to dredge the Yangtze, so that its steamers may be able to get up to Hankow all the year round, or that the steamers are only to run in the summer months.

The Russian troops having seized the disputed railway siding at Tientsin last week, and the British being apparently unwilling to resist this action, a difficult position has arisen. According to a Ministerial statement made in the House of Commons this week, pending the settlement by the military authorities of the Anglo-Russian trouble at Tientsin, the British sentries remain at their posts on the railway, but have been ordered not to assume the aggressive. Tientsin reports speak of a highly critical position between the British and both the Russians and the French, though the British are said to be taking every precaution against possible troubles.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—Despatches from Lanchow, capital of Kansu, declare that Prince Tuan, Tung Fuhsiang, and other culprits now in Ninghsia will resist any attempt of the Government to arrest them, and that Tung Fuhsiang has a force of 20,000 well-armed Kansu veterans under his banners and about 10,000 Mongols under Prince Tuan to back their defiance. A special Imperial Commissioner is expected to arrive at Lanchow from Hsian by the 14th inst., en route to Ninghsia, ostensibly to formally read out to the guilty officials the Emperor's edict regarding them, selves and to exhort them to obey the Imperial sentence. The real purpose of the visit to Ninghsia, however, is pregnant with grave possibilities.

Much gossip has been sprung up in local shipping circles, within the last day or so, as to the rumoured sale and purchase of certain steamers which have been running in Chinese waters. As a result of our enquiries we find that the s.s. *Siam* has been sold by Messrs. Bradley & Co. of the Praya to Mr. Geo. McBain of Shanghai at a price approaching \$180,000, and that the s.s. *Milos* which came here with a cargo of coal, has changed owners, having been purchased by a London Company, of whom The Asiatic Trading Co. are the local agents, for £25,000 (sterling). It is also stated that three other local steamers are in the market; but it is only a very vague rumour that the China Merchants have sold their vessels, wharves, &c., as a going concern to a foreign syndicate. This syndicate, it may be mentioned, is said to be German; and there is also a rumour to the effect that the Kaiping Mine is to fall into German hands.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

Day by day it is becoming more evident that Russia never intended to fulfil the promises so liberally made that she did not desire to take part in the partitioning of China. Given at first with all pretence of sincerity, there were deliberately left loopholes, which took the form of guarding communications, and these have grown to such an extent that Russia's present aspirations cannot be assessed at less than the possession of the entirety of the Manchurian provinces of China. The allegation that Manchuria is not part of China is one of those subterfuges in which Russia, in furtherance of her avowed policy of dominating Asia, has ever indulged, and it remains for the Powers interested to face the inevitable. Diplomacy in such a case has ever proved a rotten reed to rest upon, and unless an agreement be made in set terms defining the actual limits of extension, it is hopeless by mere generalities to seek to bind an unwilling party to come to any terms other than by compulsion. When Mr. BALFOUR stated in the House of Commons that it was in the interests of all that Russia should have access for her Siberian railways to the Eastern Seas, he undoubtedly voiced the universal feelings of the Nation, who were well-disposed to give that empire every facility for developing her vast possessions. In this England acted in a generous spirit, and followed out her policy of assisting in the development of her rival. Those feelings have undergone no change and even now the nation is prepared to afford every facility for the industrial growth of Russia. This, however, is a very different thing from placing in the hands of that empire beyond control the possession of a continent, valuable from its extent and the richness of its soil, as well as of supreme importance from its putting in her power for good or evil not only the control of the coast of China but the practical command of the North-eastern Pacific. Russia in the past has not proved herself so good a neighbour that we can afford to look upon such an advance with complacency; we have already by one display of weakness given Russia the opportunity of interfering in no friendly spirit with our own policy in Eastern Asia, and the experience of the past teaches us in unmistakable terms that with our rival every such unchecked advance has been inevitably taken advantage of still further to forward her powers of annoyance. It may seem that the present is not a time to press our rights to the furthest limit; yet we may reasonably ask ourselves, Is any better likely to occur? Sooner or later the contest may become one of life or death, with this difference too to our disadvantage, that, however we may be situated, Russia will inevitably be in a better position. As things stand at the moment Russia from being a secret enemy is now almost openly directly hostile. She has practically thrown down the gauntlet, and tells us that she has no interest in the settlement of affairs in China, and that it is a matter of the most supreme indifference to her what China does with regard to Europe, provided that she obtains her coveted extension of a territory already too huge for her to manage with profit to herself or advantage to her neighbours. It has not been the policy of Russia in the past to adopt hostile measures when craft will suit her equally well, and the present is no exception to the rule. Here the European Powers are to blame for having placed themselves in such a position as to afford an opening to Russia to put in exer-

cise those powers of allurements in which she has ever proved herself a past master. England especially cannot plead ignorance of the character of the means she contemplated to use. The character of LI HUNG-CHANG was well known to her, as likewise his pro-Russian proclivities; she was cautioned by her own agents, as well as by all who had means of knowledge, of the danger in store, yet she contentedly threw in her lot with a man who betrayed to her worst enemy every step in the long process of negotiation. She wilfully closed her eyes while negotiations between him and the Russian Minister were going on with little more than the thinnest veil of concealment, and now exhibits surprise that the inevitable, which every one but herself foresaw all the while, has come to pass, and in the end she has now to assume the role of either acting for once and all with firmness or else of having to retire to an indefensible position, with all the lost prestige of defeat staring her in the face. Nor even in minor matters has her policy been marked by even a modicum of common sense. Above all it was necessary that in her actions in Chihli and elsewhere she should have sought to maintain the good-will of the large and growing section of Chinese statesmen who pray for the regeneration of their country, and were willing that England should take the lead. She held out in the beginning the promise of support to the Yangtze Viceroy, who were willing to throw themselves into the breach if honestly supported by her. How has she discharged this debt of honour? Has she strengthened in any way the hands of LIU KUNG-YI, the one man who had the interests of his country at heart? Has she inspired any sense of confidence in the mind of the Emperor himself, whom she left to bear the ignominy of being made a prisoner in his own Palace? Ugly rumours too are about of the mixture of ignorance and presumption with which she has stood by while the German troops have been turning Chihli into a hostile province. Where it was above all things advisable to work with those forces which were tending to convince the rulers of China that while she was resolute in demanding the punishment of the real authors of China's downfall, she was ready to support every movement which tended to restore a good feeling on the part of the people of China, yet all our most recent advices go to show that the tendency of the recent measures being taken is to raise up a feeling of wrong and injustice amongst the millions. In all this she has been but playing Russia's part; and has undoubtedly been earning the gratitude of such enemies of their country's best interests as LI HUNG-CHANG and his crew.

Mr. A. de P. Barros, purser on board the Canton steamer *Powan*, was shot by a Chinaman on Saturday evening last at Canton. We were able to glean the following details:—Mr. Barros left Shameen at half-past eight on the night in question to go back to the steamer, which was lying alongside the Company's wharf. When opposite the Custom House, only a few yards from the steamer, he was shot in the right leg, the bullet penetrating right through the leg. The night being dark, Mr. Barros could not recognise the man who fired the shot, and he escaped in one of the numerous lanes near by. The wounded man managed to get on board his steamer, and at once reported the matter to the captain, who sent for a doctor to have the wound attended to. The *Powan* arrived here on the 18th inst. and Dr. Stedman was sent for at once. He pronounced Mr. Barros to be seriously but not dangerously wounded, but he appeared to be suffering intensely and was removed to the Government Civil Hospital. The bullet was found in his socks. It is thought that it was a case of revenge.

MANCHURIA AND THE POWERS' PROTESTS.

(Daily Press, 18th March.)

One of the most useless tools in the whole magazine of diplomacy is certainly the protest, yet it is perhaps the one most frequently used. Russia has been quietly acting in Manchuria as if it belonged to her; and England, Germany, and Japan, we learn, are "protesting," and, adds the telegram, it is unlikely that China will be deterred from completing her proposed convention with Russia. Why should she? England has been protesting for the last forty years, and China has been snapping her fingers at her protests, and why should she now rate them at any higher figure? On the other hand there are certain drawbacks attaching to protests, inasmuch as they point out to the unfriendly state just such things as one considers most inimical to his own interests. The history of our communications with China from the very first was of this nature. When Sir JOHN BOWRING protested against the disabilities put upon Hongkong-owned vessels he unwittingly let the Viceroy at Canton into a secret by showing him how he could most effectively injure British trade. The Viceroy was not long in learning the lesson, and carried its teachings only a little too far, bringing on thereby the Second China War. These feeble protests against China signing LI HUNG-CHANG'S Convention, which would relinquish the whole of Manchuria to Russia, are of a similar nature. If we sought for a method of informing China what we really reckoned most important we could not have lighted on a more effective means. China has been somewhat in doubt as to our earnestness with regard to pressing the little affair about the murder of a minister and a missionary or two. We spoke pretty big, it is true, but we have accustomed China to that sort of thing; so that China's advisers have good reason for the remark, "Words, mere words, I assure you, Madam," and our friend the Dowager Tsz-hi has heard that sort of thing so often that she has come to place much the same value on it. Unconsciously this little protest has let the cat out of the bag, and shown our amiable hosts where the shoe most pinches. There is no insincerity about the protest; it is the wind-up of a series of goadpricks which has momentarily evoked a grunt from the patient ox, and disclosed the most tender point of his skin. The party which was sufficiently hostile to try on its amiable plot of getting rid of the barbarian by direct violence has now learnt a much more ready method; it does not love him any the better that he is prosecuting its leaders in the Court of Nations, so it has engaged the big bully for the defence, and the sufferers have protested. The curious portion of the thing is that the prosecutors fail to see that they have afforded China the information she was most in need of; the very fact that the protest has been evoked against her little game with Russia is a clear admission that she has at last touched the tender point; and yet our Governments are simple enough to believe that their protest will induce her to pitch her new found champion overboard. JOHN CHINAMAN is not the bird to be caught by such palpable chaff. Our wise Governments have shown him the course, and he would be a very degenerate Son of HAN did he fail to take advantage of the false move. The sooner England, Germany, and Japan awake to the fact that if they wish to get out of the mess into which they have allowed themselves to be inveigled something very much more effective than protests is required the better.

THE COMING LEKIN QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 22nd March.)

Among the many important questions which will arise when the Chinese Imperial Court has returned from Hsianfu to Peking and a guarantee has thus been given of the stability of the agreement between the Powers and China, none will more intimately concern the future welfare of the Chinese Empire than that of tariff revision. Before the Boxer outbreak last spring overthrew all the calculations of the diplomatists, it was beginning to look as if tariff revision was likely to be the next subject to come under consideration of the British representative in China. Rumours were assiduously circulated in Shanghai and elsewhere that Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD had actually agreed to a raising of the existing Customs tariff. A promise, however, was given that no change of tariff was likely to take place without previous consultation with the parties most interested, more especially the Chambers of Commerce of Hongkong and Shanghai. The troubles of last year drove all such questions into the background, but now that peace prospects are growing (though but slowly) brighter the matter of duties on imports into China must soon regain its previous urgency. In this question of tariff revision the fate of the *lekin* duties holds a large place. On the 12th day of last month the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD read a paper before the Royal Colonial Institute on "The Expansion of Trade with China," and in the course of his remarks he naturally had something to say about the *lekin* question. With his words all British merchants in China, we imagine, must heartily agree, for he brought forward once more the arguments which have long been familiar with those who have studied the tariff question out here, though they have failed so far to induce the official mind to grapple with the difficulties of the problem requiring solution. For no one can deny that the problem, how to get rid of the *lekin*, is a very difficult one. Mr. WHITEHEAD himself says:—"The speedy abolition of inland taxes and levies on trade would be a difficult step to effect in isolated parts of China. It might be practicable in and near to the Treaty Ports, but in other parts of the country the merchant and the trader relieved of paying *lekin* would, according to previous experience in the matter of 'Transit passes,' be boycotted and thus be unable to sell his goods." The change therefore must be gradually brought about—the opposition of the Chinese will insure this—but there must be no doubt that it will come to pass. The present time, as Mr. WHITEHEAD says, "is most opportune for insisting upon the gradual abolition of *lekin* and inland taxation on trade, as well as upon the actual opening up of the inland waterways of China to steam navigation on equal terms to all nations."

The backbone of the opposition to the abolition of *lekin* is of course the provincial officials. Writing on this question last May the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* said:—"One of the main objections—and it seems a genuine Chinese objection—is the fact that the abolition of the *lekin* would make many thousands of people paupers who now find employment by the system and make a comfortable living. It must be granted that a consideration of this kind, however much it may influence the Chinese Government, can have no weight with the Powers." Our German contemporary went on to question whether the deficiency caused by the abolition of *lekin* would be covered by the proposed increase of import taxation, and

continued: "To us it seems very doubtful that the money derived from increased customs charges, once transmitted to the Imperial Government coffers, would find its way back to the different provincial governments, and these, being deprived of one of their main revenues, would seem to be compelled to levy blackmail upon natives and foreigners from dire necessity." The difficulty here raised is by no means to be disregarded, but with a reformed Government at the head of affairs in China the prospect of the provinces being fairly treated in the distribution of revenue is far better. It should be arranged beforehand, as Mr. WHITEHEAD said in the speech from which we have quoted, that the revenue from the revised tariff shall be divided proportionately between the Central and the Provincial Governments, and the new treaty should contain a stipulation that the increased tariff shall be collected and administered by the Imperial Maritime Customs. "This department," Mr. WHITEHEAD justly says, "has rendered the most invaluable service to the Central Government and to foreign trade ever since it was established in 1859. The fact of the new increased tariff being collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs would be a sufficient guarantee that the money would be honestly collected. . . . In the staff of the Maritime Customs there is the nucleus of the very best material for the ultimate formation of a Civil Service for the Chinese Empire. From an increased volume of trade on which would be charged the revised and increased tariff, China and the Chinese people would derive immense benefit."

THE ELLIOTT AND BLONDE INCIDENT.

(Daily Press, 20th March.)

Mr. BALFOUR has informed the House of Commons that H.M.S. *Plover* in searching for Chinese pirates in the Gulf of Pechili, which brought about a collision between the British and Russian naval authorities, was acting in accordance with Article 52 of the Tientsin Treaty of 1858. This article is as follows:—"British ships of war coming for no hostile purpose, or being engaged in the pursuit of pirates, shall be at liberty to visit all ports within the dominions of the Emperor of China, and shall receive every facility for the purchase of provisions, procuring water, and, if occasion require, for the making of repairs. The commanders of such ships shall hold intercourse with the Chinese authorities on terms of equality and courtesy." The question at issue resolves itself therefore in the establishment by the Russian Government of the claim that these islands were included in the interpretation of the clauses of the Port Arthur and Talienwan Agreement of 1898, which refers to the extent of Russia's "lease" from China. The *Novoye Vremya* claims that the two groups have been administered by Russia since the conclusion of the Agreement. If this is so, the question arises, how is it that it has escaped the notice of British officers in North Chinese waters. If the St. Petersburg Government can establish as a fact that the two groups of islands were publicly included in the territory leased by China to Russia in 1898, an answer to this question will be awaited with interest. It is quite certain that the general public knew nothing whatever of this claim of Russia, and no English translation of any document bearing on the subject has ever been seen. The British Government can hardly have known

that the Elliott and Blonde Islands belonged to Russia and yet concealed the fact carefully for three years. It still seems probable that this claim is merely the piece of "bluff" which it was at first thought to be. The Government of the Tsar has not yet communicated with London in the matter, so that we cannot as yet tell whether Russia will officially maintain the position assigned to her by the St. Petersburg papers. Whether she does or does not, it is full time that an exact definition of the extent of her rights in China should be arrived at once and for all.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND SMALL-POX.

(Daily Press, 19th March.)

The special meeting of the Sanitary Board yesterday was convened for a very important object, to consider what steps should be taken in view of the rapid increase of small-pox cases in the Colony, and there can be no doubt that the three resolutions carried on the proposal of Dr. CLARK are dictated by commonsense. The main difficulty of coping with such a disease in a large mixed population like that of Hongkong lies in the objection of the native section to submit to protective inoculation, though it be offered to them free of charge, and only involves the trouble of walking to the hospital where the vaccination is performed. The Sanitary Board has recommended the Government not only to announce free vaccination at the Tung Wa, Alice Memorial and Nethersole and Government Civil Hospitals, but also, as has been done before, to issue through the Registrar General posters and handbills calling the attention of the Chinese to the necessity of undergoing vaccination and to establish a system of house to house visitation by competent vaccinators, who are to offer to perform the operation wherever they call. This seems to us to be an excellent idea, though the house to house visitation must necessarily be a lengthy process unless a very large staff can be employed. It removes at least the excuse of loss of time on the part of the would-be patients through having to call at the hospitals, and the saving of trouble will no doubt induce many to undergo vaccination who would be prevented by mere laziness from offering themselves as subjects. It cannot, we fear, lead to a general vaccination, but it can vastly increase the number vaccinated, which seems to be the best step which can be taken at the present stage. As a matter of fact, the voluntary appearance before our local doctors of those wishing to undergo the operation have been very numerous indeed since it became known that small-pox was among us; but the Chinese population, of course, has hardly been touched as yet by the preventive measures. The Chinese death-rate has been 13 in 20, as compared with the European 2 in 9, and the proportion would be still higher if the disease were to assume epidemic form. With regard to the stock of vaccine, the Sanitary Board's recommendation that Saigon should be immediately communicated with for fresh supplies must be adopted at once, for our local output (which, we believe, there was at first an official reluctance to use) cannot cope with the demand. One fact is very clearly pointed to, and that is that we have not been sufficiently prepared in the past to deal with such emergencies as this—and no time should be lost in preventing a repetition of this failure.

DR. HARTIGAN AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

(Daily Press, 21st March.)

On the 27th April, 1895, Dr. HARTIGAN, in conjunction with the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, wrote to the Colonial Secretary of this Colony, tendering his resignation as a member of the Sanitary Board, of which both were then unofficial members nominated by the Governor. The resignation was accepted, and Dr. HARTIGAN ceased to be a member of the Board. On the 19th December, 1899, Dr. HARTIGAN was re-elected by the Hongkong ratepayers, with Mr. JAMES MCKIE, to the Sanitary Board. On the 7th instant the fact of Mr. McKie's resignation was mentioned at the Board's meeting, and this week, as has been seen from the letter appearing in our columns yesterday, Dr. HARTIGAN has publicly informed the ratepayers of the Colony that he has notified H.E. the Governor of his resignation of his seat. On the former occasion Dr. HARTIGAN resigned because he could not approve of the appointment to the post of Medical Officer of Health of a gentleman selected by the Government, stating in his letter that he was of opinion that the Medical Officer's position and independent powers, unless considerably modified and in complete accordance with the Board's unanimous resolution in the matter, were inconsistent with the Board's constitution and dignity. Now Dr. HARTIGAN bases his resignation on wider grounds. Speaking, as every one must admit, from a long experience of sanitation in Hongkong, he states his opinion that "the Board, as such, can satisfactorily accomplish nothing whatever, unless and until it is made a free agent, with adequate powers, acting directly under the Governor, and solely responsible to His Excellency and the community." It is, in fact, on the question of the actual status of the Sanitary Board that Dr. HARTIGAN feels compelled now to make this very strong protest. It is very unfortunate that at the present moment, when the Colony is threatened with the possibility at least of two epidemics, that a body capable of much useful and indispensable work as is the Sanitary Board should have been reduced to such a situation that a member who certainly cannot be accused of a lack of public spirit should see no course before him but to give up his seat, convinced that the Board in its present position can satisfactorily accomplish nothing whatever. Dr. HARTIGAN's contention that time and trouble alike are demanded for the due consideration of the many important subjects which come up before the Board can be denied by none. It is therefore absurd to expect that busy men, who have their own business to attend to, can afford to attend the fortnightly meetings merely for the purpose of airing their opinions, with no prospect of benefitting anyone thereby. The past history of the Sanitary Board would seem to prove that the opposition between the official and non-official members is an inevitable and permanent phenomenon, and that the official view must always prevail in every case of divergence of opinion. The only prospect of the unofficials having their recommendations carried out therefore seems to be by persuading the officials in the course of argument; this prospect cannot be considered a very hopeful one. When by chance the ideas of the two sections happen to coincide, the Board has an opportunity of being of public service; but this occurs too rarely to justify the continuance of the body as at present constituted. After all the friction and unpleasant incidents of the past, the Board remains still as far as ever from being the

valuable institution which it should be, and in this Far Eastern city, threatened continually, as are all cities in the East, with grave problems concerning the public health, sanitary affairs are in a confused and unsatisfactory condition, which reflects great discredit on those who have refused for so long to alter the state of affairs. It was suggested in 1895, when not only Drs. HARTIGAN and Ho Kai, but also Messrs. J. J. FRANCIS and R. K. LEIGH, the representatives at the time of the Hongkong ratepayers, resigned their posts on the Board, that the ratepayers should refuse to send any further representatives to the Board until it was put on a more satisfactory footing; and this being done the Sanitary Board was reduced to a collection of official members. Unfortunately, this extreme protest did not lead to the desired result, for the Board is hardly a more free or more useful body now than it was even in 1895. The real reason for this is the apathy of the ratepayers. They do not trouble to support their representatives' protests, though they appreciate the justice of the complaints and see that their present representation is a farce. The consequence is that each fresh protest by an unofficial member of the Board simply falls flat, and the old state of affairs continues practically unchanged. As long as this is so, it is useless to expect any amelioration of existing conditions. If the ratepayers would publicly support their representatives, the latter might be listened to with some respect, and the reports of the Sanitary Board would not be mere records of a debating society.

THE VITRIOL OUTRAGE.

(Daily Press, 19th March.)

The outrage perpetrated on Mr. REEK, of the Royal Naval Dockyard, is a new and serious development on the part of the Chinese rough. We are familiar with the stealthy attack from behind, with the big bamboo, by the Celestial footpad; we are aware, also, that the Cantonese bravo uses various disguised weapons, such as walking sticks made of iron, fans with solid iron cases, and other implements intended to inflict deadly injury; and we have often heard of them throwing pepper in the eyes of their victims; but this is the first time we heard of Chinese resorting to vitriol as a weapon of offence. The attack was, it is needless to say, most cowardly, and but for an instinct that he was the object of one, the victim would almost certainly have been deprived of his sight besides being disfigured. As it is, he will probably lose the sight of one eye, and has been severely burned on the face and head. The fact that revenge was the motive of the crime does not in the least mitigate the brutality of it. No provocation could excuse such an outrage, and the fact that the instigator of it hired another to perform the act he feared to commit does not, in any way, tend to lessen the offence. If convicted, both prisoners will be sure to receive a severe sentence, which they will have rightly earned. Now that we know that there are bad characters of the species which are ready to perpetrate violence, whether by way of open assault or secret murder to gratify revenge as well as for purposes of robbery, we hope that the law will step in with a strong deterrent, in the shape of flogging in addition to terms of imprisonment with hard labour. The sale of vitriol in small quantities should also be forbidden or limited to those who can show that they need it for a specific purpose. Otherwise we may find the example of the prisoners in this case being adopted by others, and the offence of

vitriol-throwing becoming as common here as it once was in London, Paris, and other Western centres of civilisation and crime. It would be horrible to think that every coolie who took umbrage for a scolding or dismissal might invest a few cents in a little vitriol with which to blind his employer and thus to gratify his hatred and spite. We trust therefore that this article will be placed among the goods prohibited for sale by retail except to those furnished with a licence to deal in it. Means should be found to check so dangerous and dastardly a form of crime at its very first inception.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 15th March, 7.28 p.m.

A private telegram from a high official at Hsianfu received here to-day says that the future course of events is very uncertain and rather menacing.

The Chinese public meeting here to-day strongly denounced the Manchurian convention, the ratification of which assuredly means the partition of China, according to those present at the meeting.

SHANGHAI, 20th March, 7.15 p.m.

A private telegram to-day from some friends of the Emperor at Hsianfu says that confusion is reigning at the Imperial Court.

The Emperor is said to be absolutely powerless, while the Empress Dowager furiously refuses to return herself or to permit the Emperor to return to Peking under existing conditions.

General Gaselee is expected here on Friday by H. M. cruiser *Isis*.

SHANGHAI, 21st March, 6.43 p.m.

A private telegram received in Shanghai from Hsianfu to-day states that the Imperial Court is going to Hsiangyang, in Hupeh, to await the evacuation of Peking by the Allies.

Tientsin reports that the situation both with the Russians and with the French remains highly critical. The British, it is said, are taking every precaution against possible troubles.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the the Sanitary Board was held on Monday, the 18th inst., at the Board Offices to consider what steps should be taken to deal with the present outbreak of small-pox in the Colony. Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer) was voted to the chair, and there were also present:—Mr. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), the Hon. A. W. Brewin, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN opened the proceedings by stating the objects of the meeting, and said that the disease was slowly on the increase, which necessitated some immediate action on their part. A number of Europeans had been attacked, more than in previous years. The number of cases reported up to date was 35, and during the week ending on Saturday last there were 15 cases and 4 deaths. Of the cases reported 9 were European, two of them proving fatal, so that there had been a considerable increase among the Europeans in the colony. There was a great need for immediate and vigorous action in order to stay the ravages of the disease, and stamp it out of existence.

Dr. CLARK said that the whole staff of the Sanitary Board had been directed to be vaccinated, and he thought it would be well if the Government would issue instructions to all heads of departments to see that the members of their staff were similarly treated. In previous epidemics arrangements had been made

for the issuing of handbills calling the attention of the Chinese to the fact that vaccination was a protection against small-pox. He advocated a similar course being taken on the present occasion, and certain places should be named at which the vaccination could be done. He would suggest the Tung Wa Hospital, the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals, and the Government Civil Hospital. That would necessitate a considerable stock of vaccine lymph. He believed about 300 tubes were used every week at present, but that would not be sufficient to meet the increased demand, and with a view of securing sufficient lymph he proposed that the Government be asked to telegraph to Saigon for a further supply.

The CHAIRMAN observed that at the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals they were doing a tremendous amount of work among the Chinese and he had himself given the staff of those institutions 200 tubes since last Wednesday.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN thought it would be better if they got about a dozen students to go round to the Chinese houses and ask the people to get vaccinated. He had had an awkward experience with his own servants, who, notwithstanding his express instructions, refused to get vaccinated. He thought the Government should be asked to engage these students, for their labours would be more effective in securing the attendance of the Chinese at the vaccination stations.

The Hon. A. W. BREWIN concurred. There were a great many people who would not take the trouble to go to a Hospital to get vaccinated, and unless it was taken to them nothing would be done. He thought it was a good idea.

Dr. CLARK: So it is!

The CHAIRMAN: The more students we can get the sooner it will be done. The disease is practically all over the town, and has been going on for a long time now.

Dr. CLARK then moved the following resolutions:—

(1).—That this Board recommend the Government to insert a notification in the *Government Gazette* calling the attention of the public to the prevalence of small-pox in the Colony, and stating that persons can be vaccinated free of cost at the Tung Wa Hospital, the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals, and the Government Civil Hospital.

(2).—That the Board recommend the Government to instruct the Registrar General to issue posters and hand-bills calling the attention of the Chinese to the necessity for being vaccinated, and that the Government engage competent vaccinators from the College of Medicine for Chinese to go from house to house and offer vaccination to the inmates.

(3).—That the Board recommend the Government to telegraph to Saigon for a stock of vaccine lymph to supplement the local supply.

Mr. CHATHAM seconded, and the resolutions were carried on a show of hands.

RINDERPEST AT THE POKFULAM DAIRY FARM.

The CHAIRMAN read the following letter which had been received from Mr. Ladds addressed to the Acting Secretary:—"I have to report for the information of the Board that several cases of rinderpest have occurred in a shed containing 33 head of cattle at the Sassoon's Villa premises of the Dairy Farm Company at Pokfulam.

"The whole of the herd having been inoculated some time ago, the general type of the disease is of a very mild character, and as I have now reinoculated all the animals, I anticipate that the outbreak will be easily stamped out. The farm being so far distant from any other, there is no danger of the disease spreading to them. In fact rinderpest is an easy disease to isolate at any time. For example, when the outbreak occurred amongst the military reserve cattle last autumn at the Government cattle sheds two sheds only were infected whilst nine other sheds which were full of cattle all round, within a few yards of the infected ones, and in the same compound, escaped free simply on account of strict isolation and careful disinfection. All that now remains to be done at Pokfulam is to declare the shed an infected area, and to authorise the appointment of two watchmen in the usual manner, whom I have already engaged provisionally."

The CHAIRMAN explained that the letter was sent to the Vice-President, who authorised the

men to be engaged, and everything was now being done by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon in the ordinary way. All they had to do was to declare the shed an infected area and endorse the Vice-President's order engaging the men.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. CHATHAM, the Board gave the necessary declaration and endorsement of the Vice-President's action, and that concluded the business.

On Thursday afternoon, the 21st inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. In the absence of the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., (Vice-President, and Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer) was voted to the chair. There were also present Mr. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), the Hon. A. W. Brewin, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

RESIGNATION OF MR. J. MCKIE.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Colonial Secretary stating that Mr. J. McKie had resigned his seat on the Sanitary Board, and that arrangements would be made for the election of a successor.

The CHAIRMAN said that this matter was referred to at the previous meeting, so that all that was necessary now was to lay the letter on the table.

BATH-HOUSES FOR CHINESE COOLIES.

The SECRETARY read the following minute from His Excellency the Governor, dated the 7th instant, relative to the provision of bath-houses for Chinese coolies:—

"I think it may have an important bearing upon the health of the colony if two or three bath-houses can be supplied for the use of the working coolies. Ask the S. B. to advise as to this matter and the location of the bath-houses."

Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C.:—"Most necessary."

Dr. Hartigan:—"It is eminently satisfactory to find His Excellency advocating a measure urged by the S. B. on previous Governments unavailingly. His recommendation should be taken in hand forthwith."

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen:—"It is very important that public bath-houses for coolies be established."

Mr. E. Osborne:—"I think the Board recommended public baths some time ago. They are badly needed, especially for the coal-coolies at Wanchai."

The Vice-president:—"In Shanghai, Peking, Tientsin, and other Chinese cities, public baths are opened by private enterprise, like at home. If a Chinese were granted the sole privilege of opening bath-houses, I believe they might be opened in that way. In fact I was approached on the subject some years ago."

The CHAIRMAN said the Board was asked to advise as to this matter of bath-houses and to select some sites. He thought there was no question whatever that it was a very good scheme indeed, and he thought the work should be done by the Government. If they waited for private enterprise in the matter it would be a long time in coming. He thought the Government might start with two baths—one east and one west. As Mr. Osborne said, one was very much required in the Wanchai district for the coal-coolies there. He suggested the appointment of a committee to select sites.

Mr. OSBORNE proposed the appointment of Dr. Clark and Mr. Chatham.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE ANOPHELES MOSQUITOES.

The SECRETARY read the following report of Dr. Thomson on the presence of the larvae of the anopheles mosquito in the neighbourhood of the cattle-depot at Kennedytown:—

"I have the honour to report that at the suggestion of the Director of Public Works I have carefully inspected the neighbourhood of the cattle depot at Kennedytown with a view to ascertaining its present condition as regards the presence of larvae of anopheles mosquitoes and I submit the results of my observations for the information of His Excellency the Governor. I spent the afternoons of Friday, 1st instant, and Tuesday, the 5th instant, at Kennedytown, making my second visit partly to complete notes made on the previous occasion and partly to investigate the result of the

severe cold of the proceeding two days. I enclose a plan of the district to illustrate my report.

(2.) Considering first the main stream marked "A" on the plan—the complete removal of all bushwood from the lower part of it and the filling up of many side pools, are an undoubted improvement to the district. But I found the whole stream in its more stagnant parts literally swarming with larvae of anopheles, which were not confined to any particular hollows. Immediately above the plank bridge beside the old mortuary is a deep pool round the edges of which I was able in the presence of Inspector Watson to scoop up larvae and pupae at nearly every dip of the spoon. And a similar condition existed all along the ravine. Moreover, over the position of some of the old side pools, now filled up, a greenish ooze of water-weed has formed above the lime and cement with which they have been filled owing to a trickle of water over them, and in this ooze I found the larvae abundant.

3. There are two branches of this stream which join it near the old Tung Wa Mortuary. That marked "B" is also infested with larvae everywhere but that marked "C" is quite free from them, owing to its being rendered foul by soap and soda used by washermen along its banks and so made unfit for the breeding of anopheles.

4. Turning my attention to the Valley on the East side, of the spur occupied by the new Police Station, I found the nullah marked "D" at the date of my visit almost dry and such pools as exist in a foul condition owing to the presence of workmen quarrying or breaking up rocks higher up and consequently free from larvae, while that marked "E" is similarly free from anopheles owing to the use of it by washermen, though I found larvae in springs by the side of the stream.

5. I further continued my enquiry to the west side to which I first referred. At "F" there is a nullah partly trained and in this trained nullah close above the slaughter-houses I found a green ooze similar to that above mentioned coating the surface of the stone floor of the watercourse at certain points where water was trickling from the sides and swarming with the larvae of anopheles.

6. At "G" to the south-west of the now disused silk-works there is a marshy piece of ground used as a cross-garden and here to I found the larvae abundant.

7. At "H" close behind the site of the proposed Tung Wah Hospital Infectious Diseases Branch there is elevated marshy ground similarly harbouring larvae in abundance.

8. Having given the foregoing facts very careful consideration the following seems to be their practical bearing:—

(1) The valley drained by the two streams marked "D" and "E" does not demand early attention, but inasmuch as there is already in it a considerable Chinese population and as the Chinese city will probably tend to spread still more into this valley the nullahs should eventually be trained when nullahs near the centre of the city have been dealt with.

(2.) The neighbourhood of the proposed Chinese Infectious Diseases Hospital marked "G" & "H" will need to be thoroughly drained before that building is occupied or it will certainly prove unhealthy. A free channel for a stream flowing past the site should be made with some system of subsoil drainage for the marshy ground as a whole, to remedy the present damp condition of a large part of the surface. In connection with the further cutting of a sloping bank behind the new Hospital, which I understand is to be made a deep damp hollow between the new site and the Government Infectious Diseases Hospital should be filled in, until proper provision is made for the stream passing through it in the interest of both hospitals. (3) Not much more of a temporary character can be done for the improvement of the nullahs to the south-east of the cattle-depot, marked "A" and "B," and I do not think that the needs of the locality at present justified the very expensive measures that would be required to adequately drain the nullahs. Much of the bed of the main stream, and its branches is solid irregular rock, and even after this is levelled out, means would be required in this district to be adopted to prevent the existence of the green water-weed to which I have above re-

ferred. The presence of anopheles is no source of injury to the cattle, sheep and pig depot, since their inmates are only there for short periods previous to being slaughtered, nor to the rope-works whose employees are probably entirely, or chiefly, there during the day only, so that meanwhile the only inhabited house requiring consideration is that of a caretaker of the cattle depot. Should further building be projected, this whole subject would require consideration, but in the meantime it seems to me that the inmates of the caretaker's house might be efficiently protected by a combination of the following inexpensive measures.

(a) The use of kerosene in the pools.

In the vicinity of the house I recommend the weekly application of it to all pools in which Inspector Watson, who is able to recognise the larvæ of anopheles, finds any larvæ all through the next few months, to reduce their numbers as much as possible before the seasons come around again when breeding goes on more rapidly. This should be done in the stream "A" from the cattle-depot to the well known spot above the junction with the stream "B" and should include the lower part of the latter. The total amount of the kerosene required would not be great, as only the pools and places where green ooze exists would need to be done. About one teaspoonful of kerosene to the square yard of the water service is sufficient, an amount that will not injure the water for drinking purposes at the cattle-depot.

(b) The protection of doors, windows, and verandahs of the houses by wire-gauze, a measure that in the hands of various Italian malarialogists, especially Celli, has proved entirely satisfactory in some of the worst malarious parts of the Italian railway lines. I shall be glad to point out to the Director of Public Works what I think might be done in this respect and I would suggest that the Government shall get out from England a quantity of iron wire-gauze with a mesh not exceeding one-twentieth of an inch in diameter for use not only at the houses in question, but for other isolated houses occupied by police and others in malarious localities where more radical measures for dealing with anopheles may not be justified by existing means. If ordered now it could be to hand before the next malaria season.

(c) Medicinal prophylaxis. For this particular family I would recommend the use of equinine which is more easily given to children, less severe in its general effects, and quite as effective as quinine itself in its anti-malarial action.

9. The site of the new police station will probably prove healthy without any special protective measures, on account of its high location, and its free exposure to wind all round. Should experience prove otherwise, similar prophylactic methods to those just described can be employed.

10. After the severe cold at the beginning of the present week, the larvæ were much less abundant where I had previously found them swarming, but were still to be found in considerable numbers. I fortunately had some under observation in a glass jar in my verandah, when the temperature fell so suddenly. They became sluggish and torpid, and most of them I believed dead, but to-day in the sun-rays they have become quite lively again. It is probable therefore that the diminution of larvæ in the streams at the present time is more apparent than real, since they are most easily recognised in ordinary circumstances by their very characteristic movements when disturbed.

11. In conclusion I take this opportunity of urging active efforts for the destruction of the larvæ of mosquitoes, not only in Kennedytown, but all over the Colony, at the present season when new generations are not being developed or at least only comparatively slowly, and when therefore such efforts will be much more effective than during the actual fever season.

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"I should like to add that some three months ago, and again lately, certain curative measures were adopted at Quarry Bay and also at the Metropole Hotel. Yesterday I inspected these pools and found them quite free from anopheles larvæ with the exception of two small pools, one of which I had overlooked, while the other lying out of the stream had not been affected by the petroleum poured in higher up. This shows how slight carelessness or inattention may nullify what

would otherwise be a successful experiment. The Director of Public Works is mistaken in supposing the anopheles have since spread over large pools formerly free of them. They always existed in these places. Dr. Thomson's report only emphasises the necessity of skilled supervision and continuous action in dealing with anopheles pools.

"Celli, the Italian malaria authority, has pointed out the facts noticed by Dr. Thomson, viz., 'The breeding in green ooze and in the bottom of narrow canals and trained nullahs when almost dry,' and has pointed out how these conditions can be most successfully overcome. We are only at the beginning of our knowledge as regards the prophylaxis of malaria, and it is, to say the least, disappointing to find the president of the Sanitary Board stating *ex cathedra* that this method of combatting the mosquitoes is hopeless, when the experiment has been but half carried out, is only in existence a month, and when no attempt has been made either in the first place to free the nullah from larvæ, or to prevent their reproduction pending the complete 'wash out' of the nullah during the rainy season, and this too, notwithstanding Dr. Thomson's strong recommendation urging active efforts for the destruction of the larvæ of mosquitoes all over the colony—when therefore such efforts will be much more effective than during the actual fever season.

Mr. OSBORNE said—In connection with this report I think it is due to the committee who reported upon the proposed site of the Tung Wah Infectious Diseases Hospital and especially Dr. Hartigan, to point out that Dr. Thomson fully corroborates the Committee's statements concerning the unhealthy surroundings of the site, and effectually disposes of the denial of these statements made by yourself and the late Director of Public Works. Dr. Thomson says:—"To the S.W. of the now disused silk-works there is a marshy piece of ground used as a cress-garden, and here too I found the larvæ abundant. (b) Close behind the site of the proposed Tung Wah Hospital Infectious Diseases branch there is elevated marshy ground similarly harbouring larvæ in abundance. (c) The neighbourhood of the proposed Chinese Infectious Diseases Hospital will need to be thoroughly drained before that building is occupied or it will certainly prove unhealthy." It is true that the denial of Mr. Ormsby and myself arose partly from a misunderstanding as to the precise spot Dr. Hartigan referred to, but in reading between the lines of your Report to Government it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that advantage was taken of this loophole to quibble over and discredit Dr. Hartigan's statements, and it is the accumulation of such incidents that has deprived the Colony of his valuable services on this Board. I beg to propose that Government be asked to give effect to Dr. Thomson's recommendations, and especially those referring to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The CHAIRMAN said that in connection with this matter, he would like to point out that the recommendations were being carried out. He supposed the matter would be reported to the Sanitary Board in due course. The Government were taking steps in the matter. A special man had been told off from the Public Works Department. He must take exception to Mr. Osborne's remarks about the report on the site. He (Dr. Bell) thought, and would think till his dying day, that the description of the site by Dr. Hartigan was wrong. With regard to the charge of quibbling, that also he denied. Their words were recorded, and if he said a site was healthy and it was proved to be unhealthy there was nothing to prevent the clerk at the Colonial Office turning it up, and that made him very careful. Some defects he contended were found out and mentioned, and he instanced the water-cress bed. He refrained from making any remarks at last meeting, when Dr. Hartigan made his speech, because there was an element of warmth in the whole matter, and if he had spoken he might have regretted it afterwards. In conclusion, Dr. Bell said he still held that the Infectious Hospital, when finished with big walls, etc., would be as healthy as the Kennedytown Infectious Hospital was at present.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—Do you second Mr. Osborne's motion?

The CHAIRMAN—No; I simply said the work is being done.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN said he would second. Dr. Thomson's report was practically the same in substance as the report of the sub-committee. The motion was carried.

ROAD SCAVENGING AT KOWLOON.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Colonial Secretary enclosing the following report of the Deputy Superintendent of Police on the scavenging of the roads in Kowloon:—

"During the past three weeks I have been frequently at various hours of the day over all the roads and streets at Yaumati, Tsimshatsui, and Hunghom, and once to Taikoktsui and Fuk Tsun Heung. The sidewalks in all the main streets are always very fairly clean and remarkably free from obstruction. Once only in the sidewalk of Reclamation Street, Yaumati, have I seen some *fokis* taking a meal at a small table in the sidewalk, and that was at a time when there was practically no traffic there, and once I saw a basket of orange peel put out to dry. Itinerant cobblers, tinkers, and seamstresses squat here and there on the sidewalks, and occasionally one sees a shopman sitting on a stool a few inches outside his door, but the obstructions are not such as to prevent the scavenging contractor doing his work or to materially inconvenience passengers. Firewood, tubs, &c., are sometimes to be seen temporarily on the sidewalks, but in every case I saw they were on the extreme outer edge between the verandah pillars where no one walks. The above remarks apply only to the main streets. The case of some of the short cross streets is different. Some of these, particularly Second Street and Hi Hung Lane, Yaumati, have their sidewalks (if such they can be called, where no one ever does, or would walk) monopolised by hawkers, but the streets are not obstructed and there is not much traffic in them. In the main streets hawkers do not squat on the sidewalks but over the side channels and into the streets. As regards the state of these channels I found them generally clean in Yaumati, not so good in Hunghom, bad in Taikoktsui, and worse in Fuk Tsun Heung. A good deal of rubbish accumulates inevitably round the hawkers' stalls, but the hawkers sweep it up at intervals (I have seen them doing it), and I have generally noticed that the side channels near the hawkers' stalls were cleaner than elsewhere, rather than dirtier. Parts of some streets are obstructed by building materials and debris, but only where building operations are in progress. I don't know where Major Brown's 'handy latrines' are, and I did not see any such places on the sidewalk."

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"I entirely agree with Major Brown's and Inspector Brett's description of obstruction on sidewalks. As to obstruction of drains, ten days ago I saw the Hunghom sewer being emptied with a scoop of dried black stinking sewage."

The report was laid on the table without comment.

THE NEW WESTERN MARKET.

The SECRETARY read the following letter from the Government on the subject of the new Western Market:—

"With reference to your letter No. 27 of the 7th February, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Board, that it is the intention of Government on the completion of the new market on the site opposite the present Harbour Office, and on the completion of the new Harbour Office, which buildings will be proceeded with simultaneously, to convert the existing Harbour Office into a market, which, with the new market continued, will afford about 210 stalls as against 149 in the existing Western Market."

"No change in the existing Western Market can be made until the above works are completed and if it is then found that still more market accommodation is required in this part of the city, the question as to what portion of the old market site should be reserved will be referred to the Sanitary Board for its consideration. The large area to be reclaimed in front of the Central Market containing 22,400 square feet is at present considered as reserved for a new fish market."

AN IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL QUESTION. The following minute by Dr. Clark, concerning the question of the height of buildings in relation to the width of the streets on which they front, was read:—

"In reply to His Excellency's minutes I regret to say that the mortality returns for the separate health districts of the city afford no reliable information for the purposes of comparison, owing to the fact that no less than 35 per cent. of the total deaths occurring in the city (1,527 out of 4,371 in 1900) are returned from the French and Italian Consuls, and I have no means of allocating these deaths to the districts to which they belong. I have, however, gone into the statistics of sickness at the Tung Wah Hospital during the half-year ending December last and I attach an alphabetical list of the numbers of cases in each street, the number of houses in such streets, and the percentage of cases and houses. Where the percentage was not less than twenty, I have added notes as to the width of such streets and the number of stories to the houses therein, and from this return it will be seen that the high percentages of sickness to number of houses are very largely confined to narrow streets with lofty buildings on the both sides, and that even in the wider streets, such as Ladder Street, McGregor Street, New Street, Shing Wong Street, Taipingshan Street, West Street, and Hing Hing Street, the houses considerably exceed the limit recommended by the Board, which in itself exceeds by fifty per cent. the limit allowed in most of the great cities of England.

As it is impossible to give the exact height of the houses in these streets it may be taken that two-storey buildings will be less than 30 feet high, three-storey buildings will not be less than 40 feet high, four-storey buildings will not be less than 50 feet high, and in many cases they will probably exceed these measurements."

Dr. Hartigan minuted: "Morbidity statistics that have obtained in other large cities should be a sufficient guide to sanitary action at Hongkong."

THE PROPOSED CATTLE CREMATORIUM.

Correspondence relative to the proposed Cattle Crematorium at Kennedytown was laid upon the table. It was stated that the Public Works Committee had unanimously agreed to recommend that a vote be taken for \$2,020, and that the apparatus had been ordered from England. The Finance Committee had recommended, and the Legislative Council had approved the expenditure.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

The plans for the Victoria Hospital for women and children were laid on the table, and after inspection by the Board they were approved; and the Secretary directed to return them to the Government.

WATER ANALYSES.

The reports of the analyses of the public water supplies were submitted. Water taken from a fountain in Chater Road was of excellent quality. A similar quantity taken from a fountain in Hollywood Road gave the same result, as also was that taken from a fountain at the pumping station in Bonham Road West.

THE VILLAGE LIMEWASHING QUESTION.

The Secretary laid the limewashing return for the past fortnight upon the table.

Mr. OSBORNE said he did not think he should allow that opportunity to go pass without commenting upon the unfortunate result in the Legislative Council of their recommendations to the Government in connection with the limewashing and cleansing of the outlying villages. In reading the discussion which had taken place in the Council he was much surprised to see that very old worn-out argument brought forward by one of the unofficial members of the Council that he did not know it had been proved that limewashing was a good preventative against plague. He (Mr. Osborne) thought they had fully thrashed out that matter, and had sufficiently educated the intelligent public to their way of reasoning, so far as they would understand that the limewashing itself was not carried out with any idea whatever of preventing plague, but with the sole aim and object of enforcing cleanliness. Without limewashing it was impossible for the inspectors to know which house had been cleansed and which had not, and until they saw some white mark they were not assured that the law had been complied with. That was one of the unfortunate circumstances which illustrated how powerless the Board was to do anything effective of its own accord. They were confronted at the present moment with two very fatal epidemics—small-pox and plague—and

in their best endeavours to prevent the spread of the diseases they had suggested taking preventative measures beforehand. Among these measures there was one which was recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, and that was the limewashing of the native villages. In a small detail of that sort if there was any one in the colony capable of giving an opinion, if there was any one whose counsel and advice should be valued, it was that of the Medical Officer of Health. If he said limewashing was necessary, that should be sufficient to have it done. He thought it was most discouraging to the Board after all the difficulties and troubles they had had to contend with, to find the Legislative Council unanimously rejecting their recommendations on that point.

No further comment was made on the subject.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

A letter was submitted from Capt J. K. Gordon, the Under Secretary to the Government at Bombay, forwarding a statement showing the number of plague cases in Bombay (i) y from 22nd January to 4th February last to be 1,382, and 1,188 deaths.

There were 24 cases of plague at Tainar, and 18 deaths.

The SECRETARY read a communication from the Government of Burma as to the removal of the plague restrictions at Burma Ports against arrivals at Hongkong and from Singapore.

A telegram was read from Shanghai declaring Hongkong a plague-infected port, and one from Singapore that no case of plague had occurred there for the 10 days ended March 17th.

PLAGUE AT MANILA.

A statement from the Board of Health at Manila as to the plague cases in that city for the week ended 2nd March gave the number as 7, bringing the total up to 37. There had been 24 deaths.

NETHERLANDS INDIA.

A telegram was read to the effect that quarantine was imposed against arrivals from Hongkong in Netherlands India.

VENICE SANITARY REGULATIONS.

Tel grams were read anent the withdrawal of the Venice Sanitary Regulation imposed in Madras against arrivals from Singapore, and withdrawn at Calcutta and Chittagong against arrivals from Hongkong.

CHOLERA AT SINGAPORE.

A statement which had been received from the Straits Government relative to cases of cholera at Singapore was submitted. It gave 7 cases and 8 deaths between 31st January and 13th February.

MACAO.

The mortality returns from Macao for the week ended 3rd March, 1901, were 37.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The number of deaths in the colony for the week ended 2nd March in the British and Foreign communities was 22.3 as against 33.5 the previous week, and 22.8 the corresponding week of last year. In the whole colony (excluding army and navy) there were 21.7 deaths as against 23.6 in the previous week, and 21.6 in the corresponding week of last year.

This was all the business.

THE OVERTURNING OF THE "CANTON RIVER."

ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS OF THE TWO DIVERS.

An enquiry was held on the 19th inst. at the Magistracy, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, into the circumstances attending the deaths of the two divers, Brodie and Johnson, at the overturning of the dredger *Canton River* on the 2nd inst.

The first witness examined was Mr. James Lennox Houston, partner in the firm of Punched, Lowther & Co., who are engaged in certain works in connection with the Naval Yard extension. With reference to the dredger *Canton River*, Mr. Houston said the vessel was formerly owned by his firm, but since the accident had been surrendered to the underwriters. On the 10th of November, the day of the typhoon, the dredger was moored opposite Murray Pier, and foundered during the storm. At the request of parties interested, witness attempted to raise her, but for want of sufficiently strong tackle

the attempt did not succeed. Later, a further attempt was made under the direction and charge of Captain Percy Scott, H.M.S. *Terrible*, and the vessel was successfully uprighted. The next step in the operations was to float her, which was to be done by covering all the apertures in the deck, and having coffer-dams or trunks brought above the level of the water. The after-end of the dredger was pumped out, and she was hauled towards the Praya. The idea was to get her into shallow water and then pump her out entirely. A very heavy purchase from shore was necessary to carry out this plan, as the vessel had to be dragged along the bottom of the harbour. On the 2nd inst., after having carried out some repairs to the coffer-dams, rendered necessary through damage caused a day or so previously by a strong wind and heavy sea, pumping was re-started shortly after mid-day, and the after-end pumped out first. One of the larger pumps was shifted to the fore-end of the vessel, on the port side. This end was divided fore and aft by bulkheads, a fact which made it difficult to maintain the equilibrium of the vessel, although the running of the pumps was carefully regulated with a view to maintaining that equilibrium. The operations were proceeding to all appearances successfully, and at about half-past five Captain Scott, who, with witness, had been at work all day, suggested that they should go ashore and have a cup of tea. This they did, and on going ashore examined the tackle, which was in charge of the boatswain of the *Terrible*, a most experienced man. The hawsers were found to be strained to their full extent. Almost immediately afterwards the dredger took a slight list, which was gradually increased until she capsized. Witness examined the shore tackle again after the dredger went over, and found it perfectly rigid, showing that the vessel, in the act of capsizing, was still resting on her port bilge. The divers Johnson and Brodie were in witness's employment, and working under the direction of Mr. Morton, an experienced salvage diver from Shanghai. The divers were on a diving punt, both fully dressed. One of the two men had just come up from below, and the other was on the point of going down. The eye-piece of the diving helmet in each case was removed at the time of the accident. The punt capsized, and the two divers, impeded by their cumbersome dress, went down. Immediate steps to rescue them were taken, and Brodie was hauled to the surface within five minutes from the accident. His dress was cut off, and he was attended by Dr. Gibson. Efforts to revive him were not immediately successful, and he was sent on board the *Tamar*, and he died in a few days. Johnson's life-line had parted, and it was found impossible to haul him up in the same way as Brodie. As soon as possible, however, another diving apparatus was procured, and Morton went down and got the body, which was then hauled to the surface. Dr. Gibson, after using restorative measures, pronounced life extinct. Witness had nothing to say as to the cause of the accident except that it was quite possible, considering that the vessel was fast aground. The dredger was sub-divided into four compartments, and this made the maintaining of her equilibrium difficult, and probably tended to the accident, which would not have happened with an ordinary ship. Witness ascribed the accident to the unstable condition of the dredger, consequent on her structure, under conditions of her being submerged and pumped out.

Dr. Gibson was next called. He stated that he was called to attend at the accident shortly after five o'clock. He found one diver, Brodie, lying in an unconscious condition, and after clearing out his mouth and stomach he proceeded to resuscitate him. These efforts were not successful, however, and Brodie was sent to the *Tamar*. Witness could not certify as to the cause of death, as he had not attended Brodie afterwards. At 6.10 the body of Johnson was brought up. The man was quite dead, the cause of death being drowning.

Lieut. Lichfield, H.M.S. *Terrible*, said he had been in charge of the salvage operations on the dredger since about 20th January. Briefly, his evidence was to the effect that the operations on the dredger consisted of closing numerous breaks and apertures in the deck, and placing five coffer-dams over her principal hatches.

Four divers were employed for this purpose. When the work was completed the idea was to partly pump the vessel out and then to drag her over the bottom of the harbour into shallow water. This was arranged for by bringing a forty-two purchase from the Praya to her stern. On the Thursday preceding the accident the pumps were started, the dredger's engine-room cleared of water, and two compartments forward partly pumped out. The vessel's stern rose, and was hauled round till the dredger was broadside with the Praya. The attempt to raise her had then to be abandoned on account of bad weather. On Saturday, 2nd inst., after certain necessary repairs had been completed, the pumps were again started at about noon. These pumps were a 12in. and 9in. centrifugal in the engine-room aft, the Government fire-engine 8in. pump in No. 2 coffer-dam, port side, and a 6in. centrifugal in No. 2 compartment, starboard side. The stern was cleared of water, the 9in. pump shifted to No. 2 coffer-dam, port side, and the Government fire-engine sent to the starboard side to replace the 6in. pump, which had broken down. On examination, the purchase from shore was found to be quite tant, and as no more could be gained on the dredger it was decided to lighten her forward by keeping the pumps there going and allowing the engine-room to fill again slowly, when it was hoped that the purchase would be sufficient to haul the vessel in over the bottom. Everything appeared to be going well, and no danger of her capsizing was anticipated so long as the flat bilge of the dredger remained on the bottom. The divers had just come round in their punt, and had secured it to the dredger inside the fire-engine. They were going down to stop a large leak at the base of No. 2 starboard coffer-dam. Witness was sitting on the top of the coffer-dam, and Johnson was just under water on his diving ladder, when the vessel commenced to list to port. Witness at once shouted to the attendants to call the diver up. Brodie was standing on the punt ready to go down, fully dressed, except that he had his front glass off. The vessel went over so suddenly that the attendants had no time to get the punt clear, and she was capsized, floating bottom up. Johnson, when witness last saw him, had just got into the punt and had his glass removed. Both divers sank to the bottom, Johnson's attendant, Hanson, going with them. The last named rose to the surface, and was picked up with an injured arm. Part of Brodie's air pipe was found floating, and they hauled him to the surface, where his dress was cut off and efforts made to bring him round. Dr. Gibson soon after arrived on the scene and took up the restorative measures, but finding these unavailing ordered Brodie's removal to the *Tamar*. No trace of Johnson's air-pipe or life-line could be found, but his dead body was recovered by a diver about half-an-hour afterwards. Witness could hardly express an opinion as to the cause of the accident, but that the dredger did not leave the bottom he was absolutely certain. The accident was probably caused by the very unstable nature of the vessel due to her peculiar construction.

Dr. Gibson, H.M.S. *Tamar*, gave evidence certifying that Brodie died on the 7th inst. from pneumonia brought on by submersion.

Mr. Hazeland's finding was to the effect that in the case of Johnson death was due to drowning, and in that of Brodie to pneumonia brought on by submersion, consequent on the overturning of the dredger. The accident was in his opinion due to the very unstable nature of the vessel, consequent on the construction of a dredger, under conditions of being submerged and pumped out.

According to the *Universal Gazette*, a District Magistrate has already been sent to Honan to arrange for the reception of the Imperial party on the way to Peking, and for this special expense some few tens of thousands of taels have been provided. According to one story, the Court starts back on the 1st of the 2nd moon. But according to others, the start will not be made till the middle of the 2nd moon. On the other hand, a certain high official is reported to have urged his brethren and nephews to hasten back to Hsian, for the Empress is not willing to return to Peking.

COLLISION IN THE HARBOUR.

Between half-past four and five o'clock on Thursday afternoon, the British steamer *Glengyle*, (of the Glen line, whose agents are Messrs. McGregor Bros. and Gow) which was just then entering the harbour from London and Singapore, collided with the British steamer *Hangchow*, one of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's vessels, which had come in from Chingkiang. The spot where the mishap occurred was about mid-stream, opposite a point between Pedder's Street and the Ferry wharf. The *Hangchow* has received the greatest injury, having had her bows completely smashed in. In fact the impact has been so great as to damage the whole of the plates above the water line, and about one half the distance to the rail has been opened out, leaving a large aperture on the fore side of the water-tight bulkhead. The *Glengyle* is but slightly injured. The exact cause of the casualty is at present a mere matter of conjecture, and, under the peculiar circumstances attending it, must remain so until the Marine Court of Enquiry reveals it. The damage is estimated at several thousands of dollars.

ANOTHER BURGLARY IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

DROZ AND COMPANY AGAIN BURGLIED. Messrs. Droz & Company, 10, Queen's Road Central, who were made the victims of a daring burglary on Chinese New Year's day, when the window of their shop was broken and something like one hundred and fifty watches stolen, have again been similarly visited, their premises having been broken into either late on Wednesday night or early on Thursday morning. On this occasion an entrance into the premises was effected from the back, and altogether 360 watches stolen. Information was given to the police, and Sergeant Murison, of the detective staff, was given charge of the case. From one of the Chinese detectives employed by him Sergeant Murison learned that an attempt had been made to pawn the watches, and following up this slight clue he on Thursday morning arrested three men, who had in their possession a basket containing about two hundred watches. It is believed that the same gang was responsible for the former burglary at Messrs. Droz & Company's shop, in connection with which the police at the time were unable to make any arrests.

SHOOTING AFFAIR AT THE ARSENAL.

A SEPOY SHOT.

Some little commotion was caused in the neighbourhood of the Arsenal on Friday night, 15th inst., by the sound of three rifle reports with a short interval between the first and the second and third. The havildar of the 22nd Bombay guard at the Ordnance Yard at once turned out his men, and enquiries were set afoot to ascertain the cause of the unusual sounds, which seemed to come from the sentry on guard just inside the gate. On reaching that spot a Sepoy was found stretched out on the ground on his left side, with his rifle just a few inches to the right of him, unconscious. He was picked up and taken to the Station Hospital, when two bullet wounds were found on the left side, one of them in the region of the abdomen. Everything possible was done for him, and although he did not regain consciousness it was thought advisable to remove him to the Kowloon Hospital on Saturday, where he now remains in a precarious condition. How the man received his injuries still remains a mystery, but the theory advanced by the military authorities is that they were self-inflicted, a conclusion borne out by all the circumstances.

We have received the December and January number of the *China Review*, which commences with an interesting article on "Han Wu Ti and the Aboriginal Tribes on the South-Western Frontier of China," by Mr. T. W. Kingsmill. The magazine contains also contributions by Messrs Edkins, Von Zach, and J. Dyer Ball, and Mr. E. H. Parker's "Notes and Queries."

THE VITRIOL-THROWING OUTRAGE.

We are pleased to be able to state that the police have thus early been able to bring home to the guilty parties the crime of which Mr. Reek was on the 14th inst. made the victim. Three men were charged before His Honour Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 15th inst. and formally remanded until Tuesday, 19th inst., one of the three was discharged, while another was only charged with being an accessory before the fact. The case against the third was adjourned until next Tuesday.

THEATRE ROYAL.

Full houses assembled in the Theatre Royal on Thursday and Friday, 14th and 15th inst., to witness the staging of the great London success, *San Toy*, by the Dallas Musical Comedy Company. As in *Florodora*, there is but the merest suspicion of a plot in the opera—just enough to impart an added interest to a production ever enjoyable and never cloying. It is written by Edward Morton in two acts, and is brimful of those racy, catchy melodies which impart the necessary fillip to such productions and carry the audience along in complete enjoyment and enthusiasm from start to finish. The performers, upon whom the success of the play depends so largely, had one and all a complete mastery of their parts, and from the rise to the fall of the curtain encores followed one upon the other with the utmost rapidity. The scenery was splendid, probably the best that has been seen in the Theatre Royal, and if the dresses savoured more of Japanese than of Chinese, such a trifling inconsistency was easily forgotten in the tastefulness of the costumes.

Miss Evelyne de Worms took the leading lady's part of San Toy, the captivating little daughter of Mandarin Yen How. She was again in capital voice, and was encored at every turn. Miss May Norton as Dudley, the maid, gave another proof of her natural ability as an actress, going through her part with an easy grace that shows she is quite at home when facing an audience. The rôle of Wun Lung, who fills the dignified and onerous office of Perpetual Corporal of the Emperor's Own, had a clever exponent in Miss Zaidie Monckton, and Miss Minnie Evelyne, Miss Hettie Peel, Miss Beryl Mackay, and Miss Gylan, as the Little Wives of Yen How, performed their wifely duties in such a way as to satisfy even the most exacting and angust of mandarins, a remark which also applies to Miss Montague, Miss Violet Capel, Miss Daisy Albert, and Miss Topsy Albert, the Emperor's Wives. Miss Bertha Hunter as Poppy, daughter of Sir Bingo Preston, Miss Nance Leslie as Miss Harley Streeter, and Miss Marie Lyonson as Lady Pickleton, were successful in rescuing their respective parts from obscurity.

Amongst the actors, Mr. Henry Dallas once more proved himself a comedian of merit. The ability to create laughter seems to come to him naturally, and on his part there was none of that painful straining after jokes so often witnessed on the stage. His songs were encored time and again, and—if selection can be made from a repertoire of such excellence—an especial hit was made by his rendering of "The Chinese Soldier Man," the last verse of which he had to repeat no less than three times. "Tommy Atkins" was introduced with effect by Mr. Geo. L. Wilson, and encored. Mr. Wilson is still suffering from a cold, but his dramatic rendering of this popular patriotic air quite atoned for anything the song lacked in voice. Mr. Hugh Metcalfe was as reliable as ever, and made an ideal army captain. Mr. Harold Godwin and Mr. J. B. Farrell were also excellent, and the latter played his part of the Emperor with all the dignified extravagances popularly applied to the ruler of the Flowery Land. Sir Bingo Preston, the fussy old British Consul at Pynka Pong, had an able exponent in Mr. Arthur Stanley, and Mr. James Sharp and Mr. D. Munro were seen to advantage in their respective parts of Sing Hi and Fo Hop. Indeed, the whole performance gave the highest satisfaction, and added another to the many successes scored by the

Dallas Company both here and in other parts of the East.

The following is the cast:—

Li ...	Mr. Henry Dallas.
Sir Bingo Preston—	
British Consul at	
Pynka Pong ...	Mr. Arthur Stanley.
Sing Hi ...	Mr. James Sharp.
Lieut. Harvey Tucker	Mr. Geo. L. Wilson.
Fo Hop—a Chinese	
Student ...	Mr. D. Munro.
The Emperor ...	Mr. J. B. Ferrell.
Yen How—a Mandarin	
in ...	Mr. Harold Godwin.
Captain Bobbie Preston—Son of Sir	
Bingo Preston ...	Mr. Hugh Metcalfe.
Poppy—Daughter of	
Sir Bingo ...	Miss Bertha Hunter.
Dudley—(Maid) ...	Miss May Norton.
Wun Lung—Perpetual	
Corporal of the	
Emperor's Own ...	Miss Zaidie Monckton
Yung Shi	The Little
Siou	Wives of
Li Kiang	Yen How
Hu Yon	Miss Minnie Evelyn.
Miss Harley Streeter	Miss Hettie Peel.
Hon. Mrs. Hay Stack-	Miss Beryl Mackay.
poole	Miss Glyn.
Lady Pickleton ...	Miss Nance Leslie.
Chi Yukon	Miss Marie Lyonson.
Wei On	Miss Montague.
An Chuka	Miss Violet Capel.
Si Li	Miss Daisy Albert.
San Toy—Daughter	Miss Topsy Albert.
of Yen How ...	Miss Evelyn de Worms.

When the Casino Theatre Company staged *The Belle of New York* at the Shaftesbury some three years ago, London playgoers gave it such an enthusiastic reception that for over six months it held the boards of that theatre without once diminishing its admirers, or lowering the admiration it won on its presentation. Since then various representations of the original have appeared throughout the play-going world, and wherever it has been faithfully portrayed it has always secured unstinted praise and well-merited appreciation. Local playgoers had an opportunity of witnessing the piece when Pollards' Lilliputians were here, and, as far as their juvenile capabilities would permit, the youngsters admirably acquitted themselves. Monday night's production of *The Belle* by the Dallas Company was in every respect a far different representation, and one of which they may well be proud. They claim it as the flower of their repertoire, and it would appear that the claim is well-founded. *The Belle*, as it has been termed in the city where it had its inception, in point of construction is built on a far different plan than the latest types of musical comedy, and approaches more closely to the go-as-you-please burlesque. It is crammed with excellent "turns," which sustain the interest, and keep up the amusement without making too great a demand upon the attention or intelligence of the house. It flavours of an altogether uncommon novelty in the ever recurring Americanisms, and transatlantic eccentricities, which assist and maintain the humour, and give it a flip and a verve from the rise to the fall of the curtain. In the whole show last night there was not a dull moment, and the crowded house grasped and enjoyed every particle of the piece to their highest bent. The leading role was taken by Mr. Henry Dallas, who, as Ichabod Bronson, the President of the Young Men's Rescue League, and Anti Cigarette Society of Cohoes, had a mission and a son (Mr. H. Godwin) who had broken away from the paternal hand-strings, and developed into the "lough" of the City. He was to be married to Cora Angelique, the Star Lady of an Opera Company (Miss Madge Grey) who was herself no stranger either to the altar or the precincts of the divorce court. At the wedding party there was a scene, and President Bronson, appearing at the moment, was so disgusted that he cut his son off with the proverbial penny. Thus reduced to penury young Bronson became an assistant in a candy store, and after an amorous interlude with a charming little Parisienne, Fifi (Miss May Norton) fell in love with a demure little Salvation lass, Violet Gray (Miss Evelyn de Worms) who also attracted the

old gentleman. When it was made known that Violet was the daughter of an old friend to whom he was indebted, Bronson senior took the young lady and adopted her. The denouement was obvious, Violet, later on, in fashionable attire as the lady leader of the Purity Brigade, making an effort to have herself disinherited in favour of the son, by pretending to be an adventuress. The entire play was a complete circle of fun from the rise to the fall of the curtain. It abounded in musical and terpsichorean varieties of every kind. Miss Evelyn de Worms as the *Belle*, the whilom Salvation girl, fulfilled her part with charming grace. Her song depicting the straits she was in, and the difficulties which beset her path in her labours for the conversion of young men, with its melodious refrain, "Follow on," was charmingly sung. She was equally successful in the 1st Act finale, "They call me the Belle of New York," and accompanying her rendering of "At ze naughty Folies Bergères," she did some capital dramatic acting. Miss May Norton as "Fifi Fricot," the Parisienne soubrette, well earned the enthusiastic reception she received. Her "tableau" appearance under the limelight as a living statue was a sight ever to be remembered. In her songs and dialogue she maintained with noteworthy consistency a clear French accent, and in her "Belle Parisienne," with its dainty dance, she fairly eclipsed all her former efforts. Her stirring voice was heard to its highest advantage in the two love duets with Harry, "Teach me how to kiss," and "When we are married." On Tuesday, Miss Madge Grey was accorded an enthusiastic reception. She is a great favourite, and we were glad to see the hearty welcome her admirers extended to her, and the fitting manner in which her efforts were received, although the part she took in the piece did not allow much scope for her histrionic abilities as we have seen them in other high-class productions, but her performance was most excellent and her appearance charming. Her toilettes were extremely tasteful, and were much admired, particularly by the ladies present. We hope soon to see Miss Madge Grey in a much more important part. Miss Violet Capel, in her speciality dance, gave some pretty high stepping, and showed how graceful she could "trip the light fantastic toe." She received the well-earned plaudits of the house, her exit being quite a *tour de force*. Of the male characters Mr. Henry Dallas certainly took the foremost position, for he was immensely funny in all he undertook. Mr. Godwin, who was an understudy, in the original production at home, and when it went on tour, and contributed no small measure to the farcical element of the piece while on the London boards as "Doc Smifkins," took the part of young Bronson last evening in consequence of the somewhat sudden indisposition of Mr. Metcalfe. That he ably acquitted himself in the new role goes without saying, and the demonstrative plaudits he received at the hands of the delighted audience were certainly thoroughly well deserved. Mr. Ferrell gave a good account of himself as "Doc Smifkins," while Mr. Arthur Stanley as Kenneth Mugg, Mr. Munro (Pumpnick) in their several minor parts showed up to the best advantage.

In concluding this notice a word might be said in praise of the setting of the piece by Mr. W. H. Pulford, the scenic artist. He certainly has displayed considerable taste and skill in the designs he has produced, and the scenic effects throughout, especially the illuminations in the last two acts, give ample testimony of the attention and labour he has bestowed on his work.

There appears to be a small-pox scare at Newchwang also. According to Chinese native papers the Russians there have recently taken alarm at the spread of the disease in the villages to the east of Newchwang. They have accordingly issued a proclamation, telling the people what measures they have taken to cope with the dangers to Newchwang from this source. Two free vaccination stations have been opened. Those whose vaccination is seven years old are recommended to be revaccinated, and finally the people are exhorted not to cleave to old notions, but for the sake of themselves and their children go at once and be vaccinated.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

HONGKONG CENTRE: EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The results of the examinations held in December last in connection with the London College of Music have been forwarded to us for publication, by Mr. E. Ralphs, Hon. Secretary, Hongkong Centre. The candidates in practical music were examined by Messrs A. G. Ward and G. Grimble, and Maestro A. Galluzzi, of the Royal College of Music, Naples. The Theory papers were sent to England for examination. In the following list, the schools to which the candidates belong, or their teachers, are denoted by letters placed after the names, thus:—

Italian Convent (I.C.)
Mr. Emil Danenberg (D.)
Mr. F. Danenberg (F.D.)
Diocesan Girls' School (D.G.)
Mr. L. A. de Graça (G.)
Miss Paterson (P.)
Mr. A. G. Ward (W.)

PIANOFORTE PLAYING.

Advanced Senior Section—First Class.—C. Logan (D.G.), F. Shaw, (W); Second Class.—R. Ley Kum (W).

Senior Section—Honours.—A. M. Lee Lun (I.C.), C. Shelton Hooper (W); First Class.—M. Hunter (W), M. Carrol (D), E. Lewis (F.D.). Intermediate Section—Honours.—A. Lesbirel (W); First Class.—M. Rocha (I.C.), M. Jack (P.), D. Mather (W).

Elementary Section—Honours.—Edith Best (I.C.), J. F. Joseph (D), M. C. Burke (I.C.); First Class.—R. M. Martinez (I.C.), R. Ahwee (I.C.); Second Class.—E. Hopun.

Primary Section—Pass.—F. A. Joseph (D), D. Ezra (D), N. Rodger (D).

VIOLIN.

Elementary Section—Honours.—J. H. Lawrence (G.); Second Class.—A. M. Neves (G.).

THEORY.

Senior Pass Section.—First Class.—S. Mehta (D); Second Class.—F. Shaw (W).

Intermediate Section.—Second Class.—A. Alves (D).

Junior Honours Section.—Pass.—C. Shelton Hooper (W).

Junior Pass Section.—First Class.—Eliza Best (I.C.).

The Belilios Medal for girls is awarded to Miss F. Shaw, pupil of Mr. A. G. Ward; that for boys is not awarded.

Prizes are awarded to C. Logan, A. M. Lee Lun, A. Lesbirel, Edith Best, and F. A. Joseph for pianoforte, and to J. H. Lawrence for violin.

SCHILLING'S WALK ROUND THE WORLD.

ARRIVAL IN HONGKONG.

George M. Schilling, the one-armed pedestrian, who is walking round the world for a wager that during the tour he will "neither beg, borrow, nor spend," and will return to New York, from whence he set out in a paper suit, with \$5,000 (gold), arrived in Hongkong on the 14th inst., by the s.s. *Glenfalloch*, and at once registered himself at the United States Consulate. He called at this office on the 17th inst., and handed us a pamphlet which he said he was selling to obtain the means to carry him onward, and enable him to win the wager he had made before he set out on his wide-world walk. He produced several books (on the pages of which were the Consulate and Municipal seals of the various towns through which he had travelled), as documentary evidence of his *bona fides*. He said he left New York, accompanied by his dog, *King II*, on 3rd August, 1897, went across the American Continent and shipped at Vancouver for Australia on 3rd June, 1898. Arriving at Sydney on 25th August, 1898, he travelled through Southern Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and the other colonies, accomplishing the unprecedented feat of having walked 10,000 miles in two years. Leaving Fremantle on 24th August, 1900, he shipped for Ceylon. From Colombo he walked to Kandy and returned by train. A few days afterwards he took a steamer for Calcutta, and walked across India to Bombay. Returning by train he left India by boat for Rangoon on 8th January last, and set out for Mandalay, reaching there on 7th February. It was his intention to proceed to Bhamo, and, crossing the Chinese

frontier, walk through the Yunnan province, but on arriving at the Upper Burma Boundary he was advised that it was useless to proceed any further in consequence of the disturbed state of the country. The local authorities at Bhamo refused to allow him to enter the interior, and Schilling, finding his attempts to proceed through China by that route altogether frustrated, determined to return to Rangoon and ship for the Straits. After remaining in Singapore a few days he took the *Glenfalloch* for Hongkong with the view of proceeding to Japan and thus complete his tour of the Eastern portion of this Hemisphere. Altogether, Schilling says he has walked 22,000 miles, and judging from the portraits he has shown us, his physical condition has been very little affected by his pedestrian feat. He tells us that he was laid up with dysentery in Rangoon, and had the misfortune to lose his faithful dog, *King II.*, at Bombay, but beyond that he is none the worse for his adventurous tour. He says that if he can walk through China from Shanghai he will do so after Japan has been visited, and then proceeding to Europe complete his task by a tour through the British Isles. Schilling is hopeful that some local gentlemen will take an interest in his feat, and assist him in getting a hall wherein he can lecture on his tour, and obtain the means to carry him further on his journey.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 19th March.

ARMY MATTERS.

There is a difference between soldiers and "braves." By an Imperial order Canton was allowed 6,000 soldiers as a standing army, and the rest are what are called "braves." These braves may be enlisted or dismissed any time, as occasion requires, and their pay is from three taels six mace to four taels each a month; generally they are recruited from the country folk, farmer's men, vagabonds, hawkers, and coolies. Now, by order of the present Viceroy, with a view to economy, the two battalions of the Ching, two of the Kai, two of the Sun, and one of the Hee regiment have been disbanded. What will become of them it is easy to tell; they will become thieves, rogues, and vagabonds, and will join the Triad Society so as to start a fresh rebellion like that of Waichow last year.

NATIVE CHRISTIAN FEUDS IN TUNGKUN.

There has been another religious disturbance between the Protestant and the Roman Catholic converts in Tungkun district, where there are more native Christians than in any other place. The weaker clans generally follow Christianity for protection, while the stronger, seeing the advantages to be gained, do the same thing to suit their purposes. Their smouldering spite and the hatred of each other which they showed two years ago have now again been resuscitated and have led to a fresh fight. To the sound of gongs and drums the native Christians armed themselves and fought. Messages were sent by missionaries to the local officials for troops, and the Magistrate Lao of Tungkun district went with soldiers to suppress the trouble.

A FATAL CLAN FIGHT.

There was been another fight between the clans of Cheong and Fung in the district of Sai Chin; and one man being shot dead, the Nam Hoi Magistrate has gone to suppress the riot and investigate the matter.

THE SHOOTING OF MR. BARRAS.

On Saturday, the 16th inst., between 8 and 9 p.m., Mr. A. Barras, the pursar of the S. S. *Powan*, walked with a friend from Shameen to go on board his ship. It was a dark night, and on nearing the Customs shed he was shot through the thigh about an inch above the right knee. The culprit ran immediately into a dark alley. What led to this shooting is not yet known, whether it was robbery or revenge that prompted it. The matter is under enquiry.

The Singapore Legislative Council on Tuesday week last sanctioned the purchase of the Goodwood Estate for \$145,000, and the Nassim Hill Estate for \$90,000, both properties to be converted in dwellings for and let out at reasonable rates to Government officers.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 16th March.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT.

To the stranger or to those who have not visited this colony for some time past the improvement of the place will be strikingly apparent. Plans and schemes for vast and permanent improvements of the city and outlying districts put forth and sanctioned by the Government are so ably executed by the Director of Public Works and Staff. Besides road making and the beautifying of the new gardens of Vasco da Gama and Bella Vista, whole sections of the older districts have been removed, plans re-arranged, and new wholesome dwellings built, with every sanitary improvement. The general wonder is where is all the money coming from to pay for all these public works. Ask no questions, only admire! H.E. the Governor and his executive know their duty and the requirements of the place, and surely it will be a great satisfaction to them to know that the whole population appreciates their labours.

Macao is prosperous in its quiet way. Property has increased in value, and by all these public improvements this increase will continue, as the place will become more and more a residential city for the rich Chinese—Chinese seeking that retired, peaceable, quiet life that only such people can thoroughly love. Then there is the great advantage of security to life and property, where the authorities have a care for the domestic rights of the people over whom they rule.

THE GAMBLING MONOPOLY.

There is yet much to be done, and His Excellency will be well advised to consider the question of reducing or, better still, abolishing altogether all and every monopoly on any food supply, salt and petroleum. All these articles should be made as cheap as possible in order to encourage people to come and live in the colony. Gambling, if it must exist, could be taxed heavily, and I hear that a large increase will be offered for the new monopoly. There are other rich monopolists which would bear increased taxation which would much more than repay for any reduction on tax of food supply.

WATER SUPPLY AND LIGHTING.

One of the most urgent needs of the public is an improved water supply and it is a question for expert engineers to decide whether a reservoir could not be constructed on the north side of the Guia range of hills sufficiently large to afford a moderate supply of good water to the population. Secondly, it is time some new system of lighting should be inaugurated, as we are tired of our sickly oil lamps.

PEKING.

5th March.

THE COURT'S RETURN.

Immediately after the Feast of Lanterns the Court starts for Peking, via Honan. On the 6th of March the Imperial Body guard (or its remains) and suitable transport will leave Peking for K'aifengfu, capital of Honan, to meet and escort His Majesty. If there be no unlooked-for delay, the royal party ought to reach Peking towards the end of April.

DEPARTURE AND DISPOSITION OF TROOPS.

The Japanese, Australians, and Americans are under orders to leave. Doubtless as soon as the river is open and transport available both Peking and Paoting will be evacuated. The following is the Field-Marshal's suggested disposition of troops:—Legation Guard 2,000, Tientsin 6,000, Shanhaikwan 1,500, Railway posts 300 at each of nine stations, with at least 50 mounted. River posts to be retained. The supreme command to be assumed in turn by the various nations.

THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY OF PEKING has been largely changed since the siege. Furloughs and farewells are still in the programme of events. The Minister for the United States has handed over the American interests in the negotiations to Mr. Rockhill and the Legation to Mr. Squiers, who becomes *Chargé d'Affaires*. Everyone here wishes His Excellency (Mr.) Conger a safe journey, pleasant furlough, and speedy return.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS held a fraternal in the International Club on the 2nd instant. Seventeen sat down to dinner. The generally expressed opinion was that the acute stage of the present crisis has been passed and that the future negotiations will be both dilatory and devoid of interest. Several journalists leave almost immediately.

A BAD OMEN.

From Chinese sources we hear that the Empress and the appointed heir-apparent are likely to return to Peking. That would be a calamity for the future of China. It is to be hoped the Powers will see to it that her domination comes to an end and the Emperor is left free to institute and carry out reform.—*N.C. Daily News.*

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 9th instant:—

On the 4th instant, at 8 p.m., the Provisional Government Bank was burnt down.

Anti-Christian troubles are reported from around Paotingfu, where the districts are still apparently disturbed.

The *Fe Fe Hsin Wen* states that Prince Suh has been accepted by the British Government as an ambassador of condolence on the Queen's death.

The Japanese are particularly displeased at Na Tung, who is not a prince, and took no steps in his powerful official position to check the Boxers, being sent to Japan to apologise for the death of Mr. Sugiyama.

Gen. Gaselee proposes to leave Peking on a tour of inspection on March 11th, remaining here till the 14th, at Tongshan till the 16th, and at Shanhaikwan till the 19th, after which date the General may go on to Weihaiwei.

The Japanese are strictly guarding any of the yamens in Peking that have not already been looted, and recently arrested a Banner official whom they detected stealing some silver from one of them, and handed him to Prince Ching.

In the Japanese quarter in Peking one of the Chinese policemen employed there, who was formerly a Boxer instructor, incautiously began displaying his skill in Boxer rites to some of his companions. He was however seen by a Japanese sentry, and seized and shot.

News comes from many surrounding districts in Chihli and also from Manchuria that the Boxers are once more actively drilling. They maintain there is no need for hurry, and they intend to benefit by past experiences and not make the same mistake again. Next time they assert they will do their work properly. They deny that any of the principal Boxer leaders or the goddess of the Red Lantern are killed, but have simply retired to the hills and will return at some future date and expect to find them ready drilled.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

DR. HARTIGAN AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS," Hongkong, 18th March.

SIR,—Will you publish the enclosed and oblige, yours, etc.,

WILLIAM HARTIGAN.

Scarteen, Hongkong, 18th March.

TO THE RATEPAYERS.

Gentlemen,—The resignation of my colleague Mr. McKie gives me the opportunity of also relinquishing my seat on the Sanitary Board without causing unnecessary inconvenience.

I have notified His Excellency to this effect. During the year I have served on the Board as your representative it has been my endeavour to do my duty and to give effect to the expressed wishes of the community.

The many really important subjects which are submitted to the Board demand time and trouble for their due consideration.

I would willingly continue to give both if there was any hope that they would produce

practical results, but, in my humble opinion (and I have had a long experience of sanitation in the colony) the Board, as such, can satisfactorily accomplish nothing whatever, unless and until it is made a free agent, with adequate powers, acting directly under the Governor, and solely responsible to His Excellency and the community.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HARTIGAN.

EDUCATION IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 20th March.

SIR,—It is really surprising to notice how some people have the audacity to think that they know better how to govern than those who are in power here. Just fancy, Europeans clamouring to have schools where their children may be educated according to European ideas, schools where their children may be imbued from their very youth with that sense of freedom and righteousness which solely association with their own race can give! It is monstrous to think that in these days of progress, in other parts of the world, we should pretend to have in this colony institutions on modern lines. This colony, if it is progressing, is not progressing through the enterprise of the white race. If it becomes a great manufacturing centre, as the prophets predict, it will be all owing to the native race. How can the white race expect any privileges? Europeans should think it a great honour if they are allowed to reside here. It would be better for the colony if they were not here, the official class would then get on much better.

Seeing that the question has now reached a stage where the worthy dependents of Downing Street will stick to that old rule "Native first, the rest after," would it not be better that a petition be sent to Downing Street, putting the question clearly before the progressive mind of the Colonial Secretary (in London)?

If a petition were sent to him, not through official course but direct, and were headed by our worthy Bishop and the leading minds of the commercial community, English and foreign, it may be that the question will be easier settled.

If the object of the school is fairly put before him and the advantages to be got are well explained, it may be that he will sanction the erection of the desired schools. In any case, the colony would receive a definite reply as to his decision and would then be able to act upon it.—Yours, etc.,

D.

WATKINS, LIMITED.

The second ordinary annual meeting of shareholders of the above company was held at the company's offices, Queen's Road, on Tuesday, 19th inst., at noon, for the purpose of receiving a report of the general managers, and statement of accounts to 31st December last.

Mr. G. A. Watkins, president, and there were also present Messrs. Chan A Fook, K. W. Mounsey, R. T. Head, T. H. Reid, W. H. Gaskell, E. J. Grist, Chow Hun Wah, Chu Ching Sien, and Major Brown.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, we will, with your permission, take them as read. It affords your General Managers pleasure to be able to place before you a report, which may be justly considered highly satisfactory in every respect. This has been due in a great measure to the improved efficiency of our establishment, which has recently been augmented by the introduction of new aerated water plant of the most modern type, and to the fact that we advantageously disposed off some of our goods which I took up to Tientsin when the place was in a state of siege. You will observe from the statement before you, the amount available for appropriation, after writing off \$1,727.80 from the value of steam-launch, fixtures, fittings, and book debts, and including \$7,022.43 brought forward from last year's account, is \$25,544.54. Your General Managers recommend that a dividend of 12 per cent. be paid to shareholders which will absorb \$12,000.00, carrying the balance of \$13,544.54 to

a reserve fund, which fund will be available to meet contingencies and for equalising dividends. Among the assets in the balance sheet you will notice an item of \$11,772.56. This sum represents the nominal value of goods consigned to the North, but not realized on 31st December, 1900. The goods are being sold at very favourable rates as opportunity offers, the profit on same will, of course, come into the account for 1901. Should we see fit, and provided that it in no way cripples our cash account, we may pay to the shareholders an interim dividend, say next July or August. I should not, however, gentlemen, wish you to look on any interim dividend we may pay to shareholders as a thing to be looked for yearly, but to be regarded as an exception to the general rule. In a business such as the one we are carrying on, it is very necessary for us to have cash assets, and if the cash assets were denuded by the payment of abnormal dividends, the business would suffer, our capital being small. Most of the figures in the accounts speak for themselves. Before proposing the adoption of the report and passing the statement of accounts should any shareholder wish further information, I shall be happy to give it.

In answer to Mr. MOUNSEY the CHAIRMAN stated that the profits made by the Hongkong business last year was \$15,022.43. Profits had been made on accounts of the Northern business, but they had not yet been realised, and the shareholders might expect to see them realised in the current year's account. The directors did not promise a very much increased dividend next year, and decidedly objected to pay more than 12 per cent. and thus make gambling stocks of their shares. He thought 12 per cent. a fair return, and they wished to make it a steady dividend.

Mr. MOUNSEY—The present shareholders should participate in the increased profits, and should therefore get more than 12 per cent., instead of carrying forward enormous amounts to equalization of dividends or reserve funds. It seems absurd to carry forward a large sum to reserve and not to allow the present shareholders to benefit from the profits made.

The CHAIRMAN—They will get it in an interim dividend.

Mr. MOUNSEY—That is a vague promise. Can you tell us what the profits will be?

The CHAIRMAN—It is impossible to say what the goods up north have been sold at.

Mr. MOUNSEY—I notice you have accounts receivable \$33,682; are those outstanding accounts receivable from customers?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. MOUNSEY—Is not that a rather large sum outstanding?

The CHAIRMAN—Smaller than we had last year. It is not a large sum in a business carried on under credit entirely.

Mr. MOUNSEY—The amount you write off is composed almost of bad debts, I suppose?

The CHAIRMAN—Some of those have been recovered, and some are being recovered.

Mr. MOUNSEY—I see stock in hand and goods in godown amount to \$75,000. What is the difference between goods in godown and stock in hand?

The CHAIRMAN—The goods in godown are in the Kowloon godowns, and we hold godown warrants against them. If anyone wishes to challenge the stock book the General Managers will allow them to verify this.

Mr. MOUNSEY—Is the aerated water business a loss or profit to the Company?

The CHAIRMAN—It is paying its way, and is likely to realise considerable profits. The business is increasing every day.

Mr. GASKELL said it was of very great importance in a small business like that and with small capital such as that company possessed that it should not be entirely skinned of its ready cash. If they paid large dividends they could not hope to do the same business as otherwise, because large dividends meant less cash to work with. That business was very different from one of the same description in London for it had to be conducted entirely on a system of credit. That must necessitate a large amount as accounts receivable. There was very little cash done except in the Chinese business. As an investor he thought 12 per cent. was a very good return, and he was satisfied with it.

Mr. MOUNSEY—With regard to the remarks of Mr. Gaskell, I would say that he must not

forget that we have a lakh of dollars capital, which is also being used.

The CHAIRMAN—And you must not forget that you have a lakh and a half of dollar's worth of goods to carry.

Mr. MOUNSEY—There is one more question I would like to ask. What is the value of the stock sent up north?

The CHAIRMAN—\$11,772.

Mr. MOUNSEY—Is that the whole amount?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. MOUNSEY—But not the whole amount that has been sent up?

The CHAIRMAN—I can't tell you that without going through the ledger account.

Mr. MOUNSEY—Roughly?

The CHAIRMAN—No. It would be purely guesswork.

Mr. MOUNSEY—Of all the stock sent up north then, only a small amount has been sold?

The CHAIRMAN—It has been sold, but not paid for. I expect to be in Tientsin at the end of this month to settle up outstanding accounts. The majority of these goods are under the charge of the Indian Base Commissariat people, who have not the power to buy it outright, but will buy it as they take it. Our agents can only sell it to the Government people on the Captain of the Indian Commissariat's counter-signature.

Major BROWN thought that the stock, which he noticed was valued by the General Managers, might be valued by some other independent person. It seemed to him they might be biased as a man was when he was asked to put a price on a horse which he had to sell. To an outsider it looked as if the statement of balance was a game of battledore and shuttlecock. He also noticed that the amount of the consignment at Taku was put down at \$11,000 odd, as shown in the balance sheet. What securities did they hold against that?

The CHAIRMAN replied that that they held Captain Cripp's signature, and that Messrs. Broad could not part with anything, for they were simply holding it in the godowns to sell to the war authorities.

Mr. GASKELL said that with regard to the statement about stock-taking, it must be borne in mind that in the Colony there were no professional stock-takers or valuers such as there were in England. Therefore, it was the custom in most trading concerns in Hongkong, such as that to take their own stock. The General Managers vouched for the accuracy of that stock-taking, and, of course, it was always open to any shareholder, if he did not have confidence in the General Managers, to sell his shares in the open market. To get the stock valued here by a professional valuer would entail a very great deal of expense, and he did not know of any such professional man in China. No one would undertake such a job under \$600 or \$700; he knew he wouldn't, even if he could do it.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. RAID, the report and accounts were adopted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

On Tuesday, the 19th inst., an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the Society's head office, No. 1, Queen's Buildings. Mr. R. L. Richardson presided, and there were also present Messrs. C. S. Sharp, N. A. Siebs, G. H. Medhurst, J. A. Mackay (Directors), W. J. Saunders (Secretary), A. G. Wood, C. H. P. Hay, A. Fink, A. B. Rouse, C. M. G. Burnie, and H. J. M. de Carvalho.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: The object of this meeting is to confirm as a special resolution the resolution which was passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 1st March. That resolution is as follows:—"That in Article 91 the figures '\$7,000' be eliminated and in place thereof the figures '\$12,000' be inserted." I propose that this resolution be confirmed as a special resolution.

Mr. WOOD seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The resolution has been confirmed, and I have once more to thank you for your attendance and your votes.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors to be presented at the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Hotel, at noon, on Tuesday, 26th inst.

To the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited:—

Gentlemen,—In accordance with Section 56 of the Articles of Association, the directors have now to submit to the shareholders their half-yearly report for the six months ended the 31st December, 1900.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account amounted for the six months to \$75,148.53, as compared with \$77,183.11 for the corresponding period of 1899, being a decrease of \$2,034.58.

The profit and loss account, including a credit balance of \$1,794.71, brought forward from 30th June, 1900, shows a credit balance of \$83,698.29.

The directors propose to deal with this sum as follows:—

To pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year, absorbing	\$60,000.00
To place to the reserve fund	15,000.00
To set aside against repairs and renewals	5,000.00
To write off from value of furniture and fixtures	3,000.00
To carry forward to new account	698.29
	\$83,698.29

It should be noted and remembered by shareholders that very nearly 2 per cent. of the dividend now proposed is provided by profit on the sale of a portion of the Praya Reclamation—something quite exceptional and quite apart from the Hotel Company's ordinary business. A reference to the profit and loss account will show the profit from this source to be \$11,880.75. The land sold was a triangular piece measuring 651 square feet and situated between Chater Road and Des Vœux Road.

BUSINESS.

The Company's business during the current half-year has, so far, been good.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Osborne retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell, who are recommended for re-election.

W. PARFITT,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st December, 1900.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital:—			
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)	600,000.00		
1,000 mortgage debentures, authorized issued at \$500 each	500,000.00		
Less 550 ditto not issued	275,000.00		
	225,000.00		
Accounts payable	26,926.54		
Unclaimed dividends	2,415.50		
Balance at credit of repairs and renewals account	2,269.20		
Reserve fund	58,000.00		
Profit and loss account	83,698.29		
	\$998,309.53		

ASSETS.

		\$	c.
Value of land and buildings as per last report:—			
Marine lot No. 5 and remaining portion of marine lot No. 3	\$372,045.60		
Remaining portion of marine lot No. 7	338,103.20		
Praya reclamation	\$22,431.02		
Less sale of a portion, being 651 square feet at book value of \$1.75 per square foot	1,139.25		
	21,291.77		
	761,445.57		
Value of furniture and fixtures as per last report	\$150,373.52		
Less written off, as recommended in last report	10,000.00		
	140,373.52		
Less value of stock transferred to linen, crockery and glassware, &c., account—1st July, 1900	36,969.13		
	\$103,804.39		

Since added to furniture and fixtures account	2,992.20	\$	c.
		106,296.59	
Stock of linen, crockery and glassware, &c.		39,530.48	
Stock of wines, provisions, household sundries, coal and stationery		38,408.62	
Shares in public companies		7,033.81	
Licenses attaching to 1901		930.00	
Accounts receivable		19,931.59	
Steam launch		13,100.00	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		8,922.06	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, No. 2 account		2,453.00	
Cash in hand		252.81	
		\$998,309.53	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1900.

Dr.		\$	c.
To bad debts and refunds		497.74	
To rates		2,832.38	
To half-year's interest on debentures (\$225,000 at 3 per cent.)		6,750.00	
To interest account		104.70	
To directors' and auditors' fees		3,200.00	
To fire insurance		1,550.78	
To Crown rent		481.68	
To balance, to be appropriated as follows:—			
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.	60,000.00		
To set aside against repairs and renewals	5,000.00		
To write off furniture and fixtures	3,000.00		
To place to reserve fund	15,000.00		
To carry forward to new account	698.29		
		83,698.29	
		\$99,055.57	

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance from 30th June, 1900	94,794.71		
Less dividend at 10 per cent.	60,000.00		
Less transfer to reserve fund	13,000.00		
Less written off furniture and fixtures	10,000.00		
Less set aside for repairs and renewals	10,000.00		
	93,000.00		
	1,794.71		
By rents of shops and offices, new building	2,970.00		
By rents of shops and offices, old building	6,158.09		
	9,128.00		
By dividend on shares	380.00		
By scrip and transfer fees	28.00		
By bad debts recovered	197.58		
By profit on the sale of a portion of Praya Reclamation	11,880.75		
By profit on hotel working account for six months ending 31st December, 1900	75,148.53		
	\$99,055.57		

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To payment on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 31st December, 1900		7,730.80	
To balance		2,269.20	
		\$10,000.00	
Cr.		\$	c.
By profit and loss		10,000.00	
		\$10,000.00	

THE QUEEN MINES, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the second ordinary meeting to be held at the Company's offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on Wednesday, the 27th inst., at noon:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the thirteen months ending the 31st December last:—

The sum of \$12,838.03 has been expended on the mine and has been charged to development account, which now stands at \$31,800.58; \$127.50 on preliminary expenses in Hongkong, and \$4,472.64 on salaries, management and general expenses in Australia, or \$17,438.17 out of a total of \$29,488.40.

During the period under review, work has been chiefly confined to driving at the 205 feet level South, the 4' 5 feet level North, and the 142 feet level South. A total distance of 226 feet was driven, but although some small shutes of ore were passed through at various times, they were all of low grade, nothing payable having been met with. The Company's funds being almost exhausted, the mine was therefore

closed down on the 15th September last, a suspension of the labour conditions for six months having been obtained.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

For the period ending 31st December, 1900.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account—400,000 shares at 25 cents each	100,000.00		
Accounts payable	4,636.88		
	\$104,636.88		
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cost of property	27,000.00		
1/3rd cost of air-compressing plant	\$7,036.27		
Fixed plant	5,995.63		
	13,031.90		
Development	31,800.58		
Stores on hand	1,262.61		
Oliver's scrip—2,000 A shares	10,000.00		
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	\$4,497.85		
Cash in hand	4.50		
	4,502.44		
Balance at debit of working account	17,039.35		
	\$104,636.88		

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To amount carried forward	11,651.25		
To cost of milling and assaying	237.17		
To general charges in Australia	952.27		
To travelling expenses and telegrams	302.33		
To application fees and rent of gold leases	863.64		
To Australian management	2,117.23		
To general manager's and auditor's fees	2,650.00		
To preliminary expenses	127.50		
To office charges in Hongkong	75.37		
To exchange	324.86		
	\$19,301.62		

Cr.		\$	c.
By gold account, proceeds of gold won	\$1,411.09		
By royalty on gold won by tributors	149.18		
	1,560.27		
By rent of miners' cottages	131.95		
By interest	564.05		
By transfer fees	6.00		
By balance	17,039.35		
	\$19,301.62		

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-third annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, at noon on Wednesday, 27th inst.:—

The general agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the company's business for the year 1900, with a statement of accounts to 31st December.

There was a fair demand for refined sugar locally during most of the year, in spite of the grave complications which arose in the North of China.

In Japan and other Eastern markets the consumption of the Company's products was again interfered with by large importations of beet-root sugar, and this will probably be the case so long as the cost of the latter is artificially cheapened by the system of bounties existing on the continent of Europe.

The nett sum at credit of profit and loss account is \$251,800.16, out of which \$50,000 was paid as an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the 18th August last; the balance, \$201,800.16, the general agents and consulting committee recommend should be dealt with as follows, viz:—

A final dividend of \$9.50 per share (making \$12 for the year)	\$190,000.00
Carry forward to next account	11,800.16
	\$201,800.16

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

This consists of Messrs. Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., D. M. Moses, C. S. Sharp, D. Gillies and R. C. Wilcox, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thos. Arnold and Fullerton Henderson, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

One year—to 31st December, 1900.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Paid-up capital	2,000,000.00	
Equalization of dividend fund	160,000.00	
Sundry creditors	3,478,124.26	
Balance of profit and loss account	251,800.16	
Less interim dividend of 2½ per cent. paid on 18th August, 1901	50,000.00	
	201,800.16	
	\$5,839,449.22	

ASSETS.

\$ c.	
Property account, consisting of—	
East Point Refinery	
Bowington Refinery	
Swatow Refinery	1,505,725.80
Hongkong Distillery	
Site of Soo-kun-poo	
Cash	2,170.18
Raw and refined sugar, &c.	2,463,796.80
Spirits and rum, &c.	11,263.98
Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.	241,457.53
Sundry debtors	79,273.50
Shipments	\$2,050,597.94
Less advances	514,367.31
	1,536,230.63
	\$5,839,924.42

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

\$ c.	
To balance at debit on 31st Dec., 1899	1,494,157.64
To new machinery, &c.	11,563.16
	\$1,505,725.80

\$ c.	
By balance at date	1,505,725.80

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

\$ c.	
To commission	33,285.62
To remuneration to consulting committee	2,500.00
To auditors' fees	750.00
To interest	27,683.81
	64,219.43

\$ c.	
To interim dividend of 2½ per cent paid on 18th August, 1900	50,000.00

\$ c.	
To net balance	114,219.43
	201,800.16

\$ c.	
By gain on working	316,019.59
	\$316,019.59

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the nineteenth annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 27th inst.:

The general agents beg to submit their report on the business of the Company during the year 1900, with a statement of accounts to 31st of December last.

As the result of the war in the Philippines during 1899, referred to in the last report, the refinery was silent until the month of May, but work was then resumed and continued with some interruptions until near the end of the year.

Spain being now closed as a market for the Company's refined sugar, however, great difficulty was experienced in finding an outlet for it, the local consumption being quite inadequate, and there does not appear to be any prospect of improvement in this respect in the near future.

The sum at debit of profit and loss account is \$10,011.85, which is carried forward to next account.

The general agents and consulting committee have waived their commission and fees, as they did last year.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. H. Lewis has resigned his seat on leaving the colony. Mr. David Gillies is eligible for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1901.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Capital account	700,000.00	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account	86,353.43	
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	97,536.11	
Sundry creditors	5,347.25	
	\$889,236.79	

ASSETS.

\$ c.	
Property account	632,142.43
Refined sugar	147,897.23
Raw sugar	21,462.10
Molasses	1,322.72
Coal charcoal, stores, mat bags, &c.	44,275.03
Cash	6,786.50
Sundry debtors	25,338.83
	\$879,224.94

\$ c.	
Balance of profit and loss account	10,011.85
	\$889,236.79

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

\$ c.	
Dr.	
To balance from last year	25,679.41
To loss in exchange	2,238.73
To interest	8,178.38
To Manila agents' commission	1,264.62
To auditor's fee	150.00
	\$37,561.14

\$ c.	
Cr.	
By gain on working	27,549.29
Py balance	10,011.85
	\$37,561.14

SHANGHAI AND HONGKEW WHARF COMPANY.

The following is the report of the directors for the year ended 31st December, 1900, which was submitted to the annual general meeting held at the Offices of the General Agents on Monday, the 18th day of March, 1901, at 3 o'clock p.m.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the statement of accounts for 1900.

After payment of an interim dividend of Tls. 7 per share on 13th August last, the balance at credit of profit and loss account amounts to Tls. 248,903.78.

Property account has been increased by Tls. 110,044.16 representing payments for new godowns and additions to property during 1900.

The amount of Tls. 30,000 appropriated from the previous year's profits has been absorbed by cost of repairs during 1900, and in view of the expenditure required to keep in order the Company's wharves, godowns, etc., a further provision for this purpose is necessary.

Out of the balance at credit of profit and loss, viz., Tls. 248,903.78, it is proposed to pay a final dividend of Tls. 12 per share, thus absorbing Tls. 181,200, to place Tls. 35,000 to credit of repairs account and to carry forward Tls. 32,703.78.

The year under review has been a prosperous one owing chiefly to the number of transports that have taken the place of the reduced number of trading steamers berthed at the wharves. A very considerable item in the increase in storage is due from rent on railway material and goods originally intended for the North but landed and stored here. The bulk of this railway material will very shortly be cleared.

The directors are prepared to take the necessary steps to have the Company registered under the English Limited Liability Act, provided that it is the wish of the shareholders, and this will be ascertained at the general meeting.

On the invitation of the directors, Mr C. J. Dudgeon has joined the Board.

The present directors and auditors offer themselves for re-election.

Shanghai, 6th March, 1901.

The Shanghai Mercury understands that the Gwendoline Mine in Corea has been purchased by a British syndicate in London, and that they will organise the entire staff. The purchase money is stated to be £25,000.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 18th March.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

The Criminal Sessions opened this morning. The following is the calendar:—

1. Wong Po—murder.
2. Tsang Shau, Sin Sheung and Chan Un—(1) robbery being armed; (2) receiving stolen goods.
3. Fong Sui—robbery being armed.
4. Chan Chui and Chu Yin Ki—(1) robbery being armed; (2) larceny in a dwelling-house; (3) receiving stolen goods (first prisoner only).
5. Li Muk Kwai—being a member of an unlawful society.
6. Li Kwai—being a member of an unlawful society.
7. Wong Fui and Li Hing—robbery.
8. Tse Luk, Ki Wing Sang, Li Kwai, and Lai Fun.
9. Fung San Chi.
10. Louis Araganti.

THE ARSON CASE.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C.) asked to be allowed to mention the case No. 9 on the calendar. It was a charge against a man named Fung San Chi for arson. He had gone very carefully into the evidence, and although he could well understand the Magistrate committing the case for trial, he had come to the conclusion that he could not ask the jury to convict on such evidence as he was able to lay before the Court. Under these circumstances he had not considered it his duty to file an information, and therefore his Lordship might possibly permit the case to be discharged.

The Chief Justice—Very well; let him be discharged by proclamation.

This was accordingly done.

THE BOWEN ROAD OUTRAGE.

Wong Fui and Li Hing, who were charged with assaulting and robbing Frank Esrom, a German clerk, pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. A. P. Samy, F. A. C. Hahn, V. A. P. Collaco, P. A. Cox, S. Weinberg, J. Vandermeer, and Wan Kai Mei.

The Attorney-General said the two prisoners were charged with robbery with violence upon the person of one Frank Esrom, who was a clerk in the employ of the East Asiatic Trading Company and resided in this city. On the afternoon of Sunday, the 3rd March, Mr. Esrom was walking along Bowen Road, between two and three o'clock, when he noticed two men behind him. When he got to that part of the road overlooking the Cemetery the two men suddenly closed upon him from behind. They pushed him down violently on his face, and when he tried to get up they pushed him down again. One of the men struck him about six times with his fist and the other man kicked him. Finally they got him jammed into a sort of side channel and stole from him a gold watch and chain. One of them then made off with the watch and chain, while the other stopped guard for a little while, subsequently following the other man down a path towards Wanchai. On getting up and going along the road Mr. Esrom met some Europeans, including a blue-jacket belonging to H.M.S. Terrible. The blue-jacket took him to the No. 2 Police Station, where he made his report. The police searched the pawnshops, and recovered the watch and chain. The second prisoner had been identified as the man who had pawned them and the first prisoner, who was arrested in Bowen Road a day or two afterwards, had been identified by the complainant as one of his assailants.

Evidence was then led.

The jury found both the prisoners guilty.

His Lordship said that they in this colony must take care that the King's highways were safe for his subjects to walk along, and when ruffians attacked the King's subjects on his highway, beating them and robbing, they must be severely punished. The sentence upon the prisoners was that they each be imprisoned with hard labour for six years, and receive 20 strokes.

with the birch within one week of that date. It was lucky for them that they were not armed. If they had been their punishment would have been much more severe.

Abdool Khan, the constable who arrested the first prisoner, was complimented by his Lordship on the intelligence displayed by him in the matter.

The Chinese pawnbroker who accepted the watch and chain in pledge was reprimanded by His Lordship for the carelessness shown by him in the matter.

TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

Li Muk Kwai, charged with being a member of an unlawful society, pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. J. A. Tarrant, J. H. Oxbery, H. Albrecht, D. A. de Souza, E. Ahnt, A. M. Phillips, and A. H. Hammet.

The Attorney-General explained that the prisoner was accused of being a member of a Triad Society, and it was alleged that he was so on the 24th February last, when he was found to be in possession of papers relating to the Triad Society, and was thus guilty of an offence against the Ordinance.

Evidence was led.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship inflicted a sentence of four months' hard labour.

ANOTHER TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

Li Kwai, charged with being a member of a Triad Society at Kowloon on the 24th February, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

ALLEGED ARMED ROBBERY AT KOWLOON.

Tse Luk, Ko Wing Sang, Li Kwai and Lai Fui were charged with being concerned in an armed robbery at Kowloon on the 23rd Feb.

The Attorney-General withdrew the charge against Li Kwai, who was accordingly discharged.

The other men pleaded not guilty, and they were ordered to stand by for the present.

The Court then adjourned.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE ARMED ROBBERY AT WANCHAI.

Chan Chin and Chu Yin Ki, who were charged with committing an armed robbery at Wanchai, pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. John Galbraith, A. Goche, J. M. R. Xavier, W. King, G. Patton, H. P. White, and V. P. Musso di Peralta.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who prosecuted, said that on the 9th February four men, one armed with a revolver and the others with knives, entered the room occupied by a woman on the ground floor of a house at 79, Wanchai Road, her husband being absent at the time. The second prisoner kept guard at the door with a revolver, and the man, who had been identified as the first prisoner, came into the kitchen and seized the woman by the jacket and asked her where her money was. She shouted "Save life," and the second prisoner threatened to shoot her if she alarmed the people in the rooms above. She then told the men where her money and valuables were. They then ransacked her boxes, and finally decamped with a considerable quantity of money, jewelry, and clothing. Three witnesses for the prosecution identified the prisoners as belonging to the gang who committed the robbery. The first prisoner was arrested near Pedder's Wharf, wearing some of the stolen property and having some wrapped up in a bundle.

Evidence was then led.

The jury found the prisoners guilty on the first and second counts. With regard to the third count against the first prisoner a verdict of not guilty was returned.

His Lordship sentenced both the prisoners to seven years' hard labour on the first count, to receive 20 strokes with the birch rod, and to 14 days solitary confinement—one week at the beginning and one week at the end of the term of imprisonment. On the second count they were both sentenced to three years' hard labour, the sentences to run concurrently with those on the first count.

THE ARMED ROBBERY NEAR KOWLOON.

Fong Sui, charged with committing an armed

robbery near Kowloon City on the 13th February, pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. F. A. C. Hahn, A. Shaw, P. A. Cox, W. C. Pyne, Won Kai Mei, Geo. Hunter, and A. B. Samy.

Mr. Pollock said that the complainants, a man and a woman, lived at a place near Kowloon City. On the early morning of the 13th Feb., the woman complainant was asleep in her room when she heard the other complainant, who was in the hall of the house, call out "Save life." She got up and a robber came into her room with a chopper in his hand. He seized her by the chest and asked her to take a bangle off her wrist. She refused and he took it off, breaking it in so doing. He took away part of the bangle, leaving the other part behind. There were three men in the room altogether, and after breaking open some boxes and appropriating the contents they went away. Both the complainants identified the prisoner as one of the robbers.

Evidence was then led.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.

Tuesday, 19th March.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE "PATROCLUS" MURDER CASE.

A Manilaman named Louis Aroganti, employed as a fireman or stoker on board the British ship *Patroclus*, was charged with the wilful murder of another fireman on board the same ship, named Chui Wah, on the high seas on the 7th February.

The prisoner, for whom the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai appeared, pleaded not guilty. The prisoner spoke Spanish, and Mr. V. A. Salis (clerk and usher) acted as interpreter.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. Alwin Goetze, H. E. Hammon, J. M. Jensen, A. M. Phillips, E. Arndt, W. J. Wright, and W. C. Pyne.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C.) said the prisoner stood charged with the wilful murder of a man named Chui Wah on the night of the 7th February. The deceased man appeared to have been employed as a greaser in connection with the engines on board the steamship *Patroclus*. The prisoner was also employed on board the same ship as a fireman or stoker. The *Patroclus* was a British ship and left Singapore on a voyage to Hongkong, arriving in Hongkong harbour on the morning of the 8th February. The tragic event which the jury would have to consider occurred when the ship was on the high seas, some 80 or 90 miles from Hongkong, shortly before midnight on the 7th February. It seemed that shortly before midnight on the 7th February the prisoner was spoken to by one of the firemen on board—a man named Chau Chun. He was asked to wheel some coal towards the fore-part of the ship—from the engine-room by a sort of tramway towards the stoke-hole. Naturally they would have some conflicting evidence as to what took place, but the account of the fireman Chau Chun, corroborated by another fireman, amounted shortly to this. Chau Chun told the prisoner to wheel some coal. The prisoner replied "Don't make a noise," and pushed Chau Chun against a ladder. The deceased man then came up and told the men not to fight, whereupon the prisoner took out a knife and stabbed him in the left temple, the wound being an inch and a half long and penetrating some four inches inwards. The man died shortly afterwards and the prisoner was arrested. At the Magistracy he made a statement to the effect that he was struck before he used his knife. If one man took the life of another it was presumed to be murder until some justification could be brought forward. Mere provocative language was not sufficient to reduce murder to manslaughter; but undoubtedly if two men quarrelled and one struck the other violently so that the man struck lost his temper and he killed the other man in anger, the jury would be justified in considering if this were a case of man-

slaughter and not of murder. It might be that in the course of the enquiry the jury came to the conclusion that the prisoner was struck by another fireman and that he used his knife when moved to violent anger and might consider the case one of manslaughter, but he was bound to say that so far as the evidence for the prosecution went he had not been able to see such facts on the face of the depositions as would reduce the case to one of manslaughter.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

Chau Chun, the man with whom the prisoner had words in the first instance, corroborated the Attorney-General's statement.

After tiffin formal evidence was given as to the departure of the *Patroclus* from Hongkong, in order that in the absence of the officers their depositions might be put in.

Leung Chun, another fireman on board the *Patroclus*, also gave his version of the affair. He said Chau Chun told the prisoner to take some coal forward. The prisoner did not do so but pushed Chau Chun with his hands, causing him to fall against a ladder. The deceased man happened to come to the place, and he told the prisoner not to make a noise. Then he saw the prisoner stab the deceased with a knife, and the deceased fell. Witness went to him and picked him up. He saw the prisoner with a knife in his hand. Then he put it in his trousers-pocket. Chau Chun went to the engine-room and brought back the fourth engineer, and they three carried the deceased into the engine-room. He then went off duty and went asleep. The next day he saw the dead body of Chin Wah at the mortuary. Neither he nor anybody else struck the prisoner before the latter used the knife.

The witness was cross-examined at some length by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

Other witnesses followed, and the case for the prosecution was closed.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai said he had no witnesses to call for the defence.

His Lordship said the Court had better adjourn, as the case could not be finished in one day.

The hearing was accordingly adjourned.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE ARMED ROBBERY IN UPPER LASCAR ROW.

Tsang Shan, Sin Sheung, and Chan Un were charged with (1) robbery being armed; (2) receiving stolen goods. They pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. P. M. de V. Peralta, G. Patton, G. Hunter, A. Shaw, G. Meyer, V. A. P. Collaco, and J. Vandermeer.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., stated the case for the prosecution. It was to the effect that about eight o'clock on the evening of the 5th February a married woman named Tai King, who lives on the third floor of No. 42, Upper Lascar Row, was standing at the door of her cubicle when she saw two men at the head of the stairs. She asked them what they were looking for, and they replied "Ah Yau." She did not know any man of that name on the third floor, and she turned her head away, upon which the third prisoner caught her by the neck. She called out "Save life," whereupon the other man put a handkerchief into her mouth. Both of them then pressed her down and took from her a pair of rattan bangles mounted with gold and seven finger rings. The third prisoner continued to hold her down while the other man, whom she could not identify, broke open her boxes, after which both decamped. All the prisoners were subsequently arrested with some of the stolen property in their possession.

The evidence as to the men being armed not being conclusive, the first count in the indictment was amended to robbery only.

The jury found the first and third prisoners guilty on the first count and not guilty on the second. The second prisoner was found not guilty on the first count and guilty on the second.

His Lordship sentenced the first and third prisoners to six years' hard labour and 20 strokes with the birch-rod, and the second prisoner to three years' hard labour.

The Court then rose.

Wednesday, 20th March.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN W. CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE "PATROCLUS" MURDER CASE.

The hearing of the *Patroclus* murder case was resumed. The accused was a Manilaman named Louis Aroganti, employed as a fireman or stoker on board the British ship *Patroclus*, and he was charged with the wilful murder of another fireman on board the same ship, named Chui Wah, on the high seas on the 7th February.

The following composed the jury.—Messrs. Alwin Goacke, H. E. Hammon, J. M. Jensen, A. M. Phillips, E. Arndt, W. J. Wright, and W. C. Pyne.

Mr. V. A. Salis (clerk and usher) acted as Spanish interpreter.

The case for the prosecution being closed, The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai addressed the jury for the defence. He said the prisoner at the bar was charged with an offence of the gravest kind and one for which, if found guilty, he would be visited with the severest penalty the law provided. Therefore it behoved them to exercise the utmost care, and if they found that there was any reasonable doubt in connection with the guilt of the prisoner it was their duty to give the man the benefit of that doubt and not to find him guilty of the charge. The prosecution would have them believe that the prisoner had committed murder of the foulest nature, and not only so, but without the slightest provocation whatsoever. The prisoner was supposed to have committed that murder not only in cold blood but without any provocation whatsoever. After reviewing and criticising the evidence for the prosecution, the learned counsel asked what were the real facts. He was sorry to say that, as the affair happened in the middle of the night and while the engines were working, it was impossible, or very improbable, for any of the European staff to hear the noise, and consequently they had no reliable account of what actually passed. But it seemed to him that he was not asking the jury unduly to stretch their imagination when he asked them to believe that a dispute of some kind was going on between the prisoner and the Chinese firemen—that from big words they came to blows, and that in the small confined space of the stoke-hole somebody used a knife by which the deceased was stabbed. It was to be expected that when a man had been knocked over or someone killed or injured the noise would subside, and a scap-goat had to be found. It seemed to him that there was a general inclination among the Chinese firemen to implicate not only the prisoner but another Manilaman who was on board. He could not say for what reason, except that the Chinese resented the employment of these men to do work hitherto done by men of their own race. At any rate there was evidence of a fight. One of the witnesses for the prosecution stated positively that the men were fighting. First of all the jury must be satisfied that the prisoner killed the deceased man. If they had any doubt at all on the point it was their duty to acquit the prisoner; but if they found that there was sufficient evidence to show that the prisoner killed the deceased he would ask them to consider further whether he killed him with malice aforethought, that was to say intentionally, in cold blood, or whether he killed him after having been provoked by a blow received in a fight. If they found that the prisoner killed the deceased while fighting with him and others it would be quite competent for them to bring in a verdict of manslaughter; and, furthermore, if they found that the prisoner, as represented by one of the witnesses for the prosecution, was surrounded by half-a-dozen Chinamen all striking at him and that he whipped out a knife and struck a blow in self-defence, they would still bring in a verdict of manslaughter, but it would be excusable manslaughter.

The Attorney-General followed, after which His Lordship summed up.

The jury found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter only, and he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Thursday, 21st March.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE WANCHAI MURDER CASE.

A widow named Wong Po, residing at 143, Queen's Road East, Wanchai, was charged with the wilful murder of a man named Kwong Cheung, of the same address, formerly a messenger in connection with the Supreme Court, on the 5th February.

The prisoner, for whom Mr. E. H. Sharp appeared, pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. P. A. Cox, John Galbraith, Wan Ki Mei, George Hunter, F. A. C. Hahn, George Patton, and Gustave Meyer.

On Mr. Cox's name being called, he informed His Lordship that that was the third jury he had been called upon to serve that week.

His Lordship—I am afraid you must take your chance.

The Attorney-General said the accused, Wong Po, was charged with having, on the 5th February last, feloniously and wilfully murdered one Kwong Cheung, who was for a good many years one of the coolies connected with that Court. In December last he retired from the Government service, receiving a gratuity of \$100. The deceased had been twice married, and his second wife was still alive. This affair had upset the woman so much that she might not prove as good a witness as she might have done before receiving the shock caused by this affair. The deceased man lived on the first floor of No. 143, Queen's Road East, together with his wife and little boy. The man and his wife rented the whole of the first floor. There was no possibility of getting into the room at the back, the only means of entrance being the stairs in front. The deceased let out some beds to various men—respectable working men, who were out at work during the day. The prisoner, according to her own statement, was at one time a prostitute. She then went to live with a foreigner at Macao, and when he died she said he left her \$500. In April of last year she went to live with the deceased and his wife, and occupied the second cubicle (marked on the plan supplied to the jury). From that time there were various dissensions between the deceased man, his wife, and the accused. Seeing that the deceased used to sleep in the same cubicle as the accused, while his wife slept in the next one, the jury would readily understand that there was likely to be ill blood and quarrelling. Then this woman had a certain amount of money and jewelry, and he thought the jury would find that there were quarrels between the deceased and the prisoner in relation to money matters. He would have to call their attention to three matters principally. One occurred in the fifth moon. The place had been fumigated and cleared out in consequence of there having been a case of plague there, and two boxes belonging to the accused and containing some \$240 were brought round to the Court by the deceased, who was at that time in the Government service, and on the boxes being taken back the woman complained that some of the money was missing. Then in the seventh moon there was a quarrel about a gold bangle and some bank notes. There was another quarrel a day or two before the death of the deceased. At about two o'clock in the morning the wife said she heard the prisoner and the deceased quarrelling in the cubicle next to the one which she occupied; that she heard the accused tell the deceased that she did not want him, and that if he would give her \$100 they would separate. Although it was not incumbent upon him to show any motive, he mentioned these things because he could only suggest to them as a possible motive for the murder the quarrels which took place from time to time between the accused and the deceased over money matters. On the 5th February, the day of the murder, the deceased had come home at about two o'clock in the morning. He did not seem to have made very good use of the \$100 given to him by the Government as a gratuity. He appeared to have been in the habit of coming home in the small hours

of the morning. He did not know what he was doing. It had been suggested that he was rather fond of gambling. At all events he did not keep the best of hours, and on this particular morning he got home at about two o'clock. He and his wife and boy had their morning meal of rice, drinking some sam-shu with it. The deceased drank about half a bottle himself. The wife appeared to be an industrious sort of woman. She got her living by mending clothes as she was seated in the street underneath the verandah of the house. After breakfast this morning the wife and the deceased had a quarrel about a woollen jacket, which had been given her to mend and which she said the prisoner had stolen. Finally, about nine o'clock in the morning, the wife went downstairs, and was afterwards seen sitting under the verandah. There was then no one left in the flat but the deceased and the accused. The latter was in her cubicle and he thought the jury would be of opinion that the deceased went in to her and lay down on her bed. Nothing particular occurred until a little before 11 o'clock, when the prisoner came on to the verandah and began to call out, "Save life!" and that there were thieves and robbers in the house. Sanitary Inspector Hogarth, hearing her cries, rushed up the stairs, and the woman admitted him into the room. She said thieves had broken into the place and killed Kwong Cheung. On going into the second cubicle Hogarth found the deceased lying across the bed. There was a nasty bruise on the forehead which Dr. Thomson said might have stunned him. There were two stabs in the chest, one penetrating the liver and the other the lungs, and Dr. Thomson would tell the jury that death was caused by these wounds. There was also a wound in the abdomen. The evidence of Dr. Thomson pointed distinctly to the fact that the man was stabbed when lying on his back in the bed. The police were sent for and Inspector Ford enquired into the woman's story about thieves having broken into the house and killed the deceased, but could find nothing to show that this story was at all likely. In conclusion, the learned Attorney-General pointed out that this was not a case of manslaughter. It being perfectly clear that the deceased met his death by being stabbed, the main question the jury had to decide was, Did the accused murder the man?

The evidence was then called.

The case for the prosecution was not concluded when the Court rose.

REVIEW.

From Portsmouth to Peking via Ladysmith with a Naval Brigade. By G. C., HONGKONG. Daily Press Office.

A publication which deals with the stirring events leading up to the relief of Ladysmith, and those connected with the march to and relief of Peking, although late in the day, will ever be welcome to the vast body of the British reading public, and find a foremost place among the principal treasures of the book-shelves of the day. *From Portsmouth to Peking via Ladysmith with a Naval Brigade* is a welcome addition to the current literature dealing with the same subject, and is written by a naval man, who, under the cognomen of G. C., gives a succinct account of the work done by the Naval Brigade in South Africa and China, as well as a faithful illustration of the events which have happened during the commission of H.M.S. *Terrible* which is just drawing to a close. It contains much that is new, and from cover to cover abounds in anecdote, incident, description, and sketches, alike instructive and amusing. It gives its readers a sound technical view of the means employed in the great gunnery achievements of the "Handy-man," without disturbing the continuity of style and consecutiveness in the narrative, and without involving the reader in a maze of nautical or technical terms. The style aimed at throughout is bright, crisp, and interesting, here and there relieved by poetical sketches illustrative of passing scenes, and interspersed with maps outlining in every detail the geographical positions taken by the Brigade on their meritorious journeys afoot. The author in his explanatory note says:—"The

book has been written from a Naval standpoint, and in a narrative rather than in diary form, in order to try and make its contents more interesting reading than is usually possible with the latter style, and approximate accuracy in each subject has been the writer's main object. It is this care in detail that has more than once enabled the author to correct many of the errors of his predecessors, and even those of his superior authorities, whose official reports he quotes at considerable length, and it is this "approximate accuracy" which makes the work such a praiseworthy contribution to the current literature of its kind. We predict for it, at a dollar a copy, a large and increasing sale.

ROYAL ARTILLERY SPORTS.

Lovely weather favoured the second and principal day of the regimental sports of the Royal Artillery at Happy Valley on Thursday, and the crowds witnessing the fête were truly cosmopolitan. The work attaching to the organisation of such a programme as was gone through must necessarily be arduous, but, thanks to the efforts of Captain Waymouth and the committee, everything, from start to finish, went off with a gratifying smoothness. The following is the prize-list:—

- 1.—Half-Mile Flat Race (open to H. K. S. B. R. A. only).—Gun. Thaker Mal; 2, Gun. Mir Mahommed; 3, Gun. Sunder Singh. Time, 2 min. 27 secs.
- 2.—Half-Mile Flat Race (Handicap).—1, M. Gun. Chisholm; 1, Gun. Reed; 3, Gun. Stedman. Time, 2 min. 27 secs.
- 3.—High Jump.—1, Cor. Phillips and Gun. Curran (dead-heat); 3, Gun. Snelgrove. Height, 4 ft. 7½ in.
- 4.—Long Jump.—1, Cor. Griffiths; 2, Ser. Ruth; 3, Gun. Dowling. Length, 16ft. 1 in.
- 5.—Throwing Cricket Ball.—1, Bom. Norris; 2, Gun. Hogben; 3, Gun. Smith. Length, 96 yds. 1 ft. 11 in.
- 6.—Putting the Weight.—1, Ser. Ruth; 2, Bom. McMurray; 3, Cor. Griffiths. Length, 33 ft. 11 in.
- 7.—Trumpeters' Race (120 yards).—1, Tpr. Gostling; 2, Tpr. Leech; 3, Tpr. Cowley. Time, 15 secs.
- 8.—Putting the Weight (H.K.S.B.R.A.).—1, Gun. Maddhat Khan; 2, Gun. Pirzah; 3, Gholan Mahommed. Length, 34ft 3½ in.
- 9.—Three Legged Race.—1, Ser. Ruth and Bom. Robinson; 2, Gun. Kerr and Gun. Mercado; 3, Cor. Griffiths and Gun. Woods.
- 10.—Boys' and Girls' Race.—1, Tommy Philip; 2, Carrie Philip; 3, Lizzie Philip.
- 11.—Wheel Race.—1, Gun. Smith; 2, Gun. Moxon; 3, Bom. Woods. Time, 30 secs.
- 12.—Tug of War (H.K.S.B.R.A.).—2nd Company won. Time, 8min. 5secs.
- 13.—100 Yards Flat Race.—1, Cor. Griffiths; 2, Bom. Robinson; 3, Bom. Reed. Time, 112/5 secs.
- 14.—Tilting the Bucket.—Winner to be decided in Barracks.
- 15.—Veterans' Race (200 yards).—1, M. Gun. Buckland; 2, M. Gun. Chisholm; 3, C. S. M. Bliss. Time, 24 secs.
- 16.—Obstacle Race.—1, Gun. Watts; 2, Bom. Johnson; 3, Gun. Byrne; 4, Gun. Woods; 5, Bom. Clarke. Time, 6 min. 4 secs.
- 17.—Quarter-Mile Flat Race.—1, Cor. Griffiths; 2, Bom. Reed; 3, Bom. Robinson. Time, 62 2/5 secs.
- 18.—Officers' Race (120 yards).—1, Capt. Langhorne; 2, Capt. Dykes. Time, 14 secs.
- 19.—Hurdle Race.—1, Gun. Snelgrove; 2, Cor. Griffiths; 3, Bom. Johnson and Gun. Woods (dead-heat). Time, 20 secs.
- 20.—Tug of War (open).—Royal Artillery versus H.M.S. Centurion (stokers' team)—R.A. won first two pulls. 5th Hyderabad versus 22nd Bombay Infantry—22nd B.I. won.
- 21.—Costume Race in Rickshaws.—1, Gun. Walker and Gun. Byrne; 2, Ser. Ruth and Tpr. Price. Best costume—1, Ser. Ruth and Tpr. Price; 2, Ser. Walton and Tpr. Cowley.
- 22.—Band Race (quarter mile).—1, Andrews; 2, Enoch; 3, Gregory. Time, 62 secs.
- 23.—One Mile Flat Race.—1, M. Gun. Chisholm; 2, Gun. Harrington; 3, Bom. Curran. Time, 5 min. 45 secs.
- 24.—Babalava Males.—1, 25th Co S.D.R.A. team; 2, 25th Co. E.D.R.A.

25.—Sergeants' Race (120 yards).—1, M. Gun. Chisholm; 2, Ser. Robinson; 3, C.Q.M.S. Dall. Time, 14 secs.

26.—Sack Race.—Postponed

27.—Half Mile (Open).—1, Andrews; 2, O'Brien; 3, M. Gun. Chisholm. Time, 2 mins. 26 secs.

28.—Team Race (six miles).—1, 25th Co. S.D.R.A. Time, 28 mins. 41 secs.

29.—Tug-of-War (British Companies, R.G.A.).—25th Co. E.D.R.A. Time, 6 mins. 13 secs.

30.—Potato Race.—1, Gun. Mercado; 2, Bom. Robinson; 3, Gun. Pollett.

31.—Half-Mile Flat Race (Siege Train).—1, Nicol; 2, Blair; 3, O'Brien. Time, 2 mins. 46 secs.

32.—Consolation Race. (half mile).—1, Gun. Chapman; 2, Gun. Wood (P.); 3, Gun. Panter; 4, Gun. Wilkins. Time, 2 min. 37 secs.

Best Clowns.—1, Gun. Walker; 2, Gun. Byrne.

Winning Company (Challenge Cup)—1, 25th Co., S.D.R.A., 72 points; 2, 25th Co. E.D.R.A., 47 points; 3, 38th Co. S.D.R.A., 30 points.

At the conclusion of the sports, Mrs. St. John, wife of Major St. John, R.A., presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG ISLAND V. HARBOUR AND DEPENDENCIES.

A very pleasant game resulted from the match arranged for last Saturday, 16th inst. The amphibious eleven led by 58 runs on a one-innings, but by no means a one-sided game. The chief scorers for all parts north of the new Praya as far as Samchun river, etc., etc., were Krickenbeek and Franklin, the former playing with confidence and strength. Later, Forsyth showed considerable skill. Salter was the only successful bowler for the parent island, obtaining 5 wickets in his last four overs. Langhorne, Maitland, and Tuck all enjoyed themselves at the expense of their opponents, but it was Smith and Dorehill who put the issue beyond doubt. Getting together at 94, they rushed the score by smart running up to 172, when Smith left for a useful 44. With the rest of the eleven for partners, the Major hit away and tried hard to get into the next century on the ground, but put up one at 83 and retired for a brilliant innings, marked chiefly by well-judged running and play behind the wicket. For the losers Nicholson put in many a good ball, and Wood finally caught Woodgates.

By kind permission of Lieut-Col. Tever-sham, D. S. O., and officers, the Band of the 3rd M. L. I. attended in the afternoon.

The following are the score and analysis:—

THE WORLD.				
Capt. Ainslie, 3rd M. b Hooper	1			
Lieut. Krickenbeek, 22nd B. b Salter	65			
Mr. Franklin, R.N., l.b.w., b Woodgates	31			
Lieut. Noble, R.N., run out	6			
Lieut. Mayhew, R.M.L.I., b Salter	15			
Lieut. Nicholson, 3rd M., b Salter	17			
Lieut. Forsyth, c Sercombe Smith, b Salter	21			
Mr. Mast, b Salter	0			
Lieut. Wood, R.N., b Salter	0			
Lieut. Clapham, R.A., b Sercombe Smith	15			
Lieut. Moreton, R.N., not out	4			
Extras	16			
Total	191			

HONGKONG.				
Capt. Langhorne, R.A., c Mast, b Krick-enbeek	22			
Mr. F. Maitland, b Nicholson	27			
Dr. Tuck, R.N., l.b.w., b Nicholson	29			
Major Dyson, A.P.D., b Krickenbeek	2			
Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, c Noble, b Franklin	44			
Mr. Salter, b Nicholson	0			
Major Dorehill, R.A., c Moreton, b Nicholson	83			
Mr. J. F. Noble, b Franklin	14			
Mr. Woodgates, c Wood, b Nicholson	8			
Major Nuttall, A.S.C., b Franklin	1			
Mr. J. Hooper, not out	6			
Extras	13			
Total	219			

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE WORLD.				
Buttons	0	M.	R.	W.
Hooper	6	0	22	1
Dorehill	12	0	43	0
Woodgates	2	0	23	1
Sercombe Smith	8.5	2	25	1
Salter	12	1	61	6

HONGKONG.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Nicholson	20.5	2	90	5
Franklin	17	1	88	3
Krickenbeek	7	0	35	2
Forsyth	4	0	23	0

H.M.S. "CENTURION" V. H.M.S. "ENDYMION."
The above match was played on Thursday, 14th inst. The following are the scores:—

H.M.S. "CENTURION."				
Lieut. Moreton, R.N., run out	4			
Mr. Bull, R.N., c Orton, b Williams	11			
Lieut. Goldie, R.N., c Price, b Williams	2			
—Golding, c Gascoigne, b Franklin	3			
Lieut. Fairie, b Williams	0			
Mr. Coomber, c Bailey, b Gascoigne	13			
Mr. St. John, b Williams	1			
Capt. Tuke, c Palmer, b Williams	4			
—Killick, b Williams	0			
Mr. Begnell, not out	0			
Mr. Davis, b Williams	6			
Extras	1			
Total	39			
H.M.S. "ENDYMION."				
Lieut. Gascoigne, R.N., b Killick	11			
Mr. Franklin, c Moreton, b Fairie	31			
Pte. Williams, run out	5			
Lieut. Orton, b St. John	57			
Lieut. Johnson, b Killick	11			
Lieut. Palmer, b Killick	11			
Mr. Thurston, c St. John, b Killick	2			
Pte. Price, not out	18			
Capt. Boothby, c Bagnell, b Golding	0			
Mr. Bailey, b Fairie	1			
Mr. Silk, c Davis, b St. John	0			
Extras	8			
Total	155			

H.M.S. "TAMAR" V. PARSEE C.C.
Played at Happy Valley on the 16th inst.
Scores:—

PARSEE C.C.				
M. Kakouk, c Henwood, b Shettle	19			
J. Master, b Shettle	3			
A. Chinoy, b Shettle	5			
B. Cooper, b Pollecutt	15			
H. Vatcha, b Pollecutt	22			
B. Pestonji, c Good, b Hill	11			
J. Ratanji, b Hill	1			
B. Tata, not out	12			
A. Shroff, c Good, b Hill	0			
J. Patel, c and b Pollecutt	7			
R. Bezoni, b Morrison	7			
Extras	5			
Total	107			
H.M.S. "TAMAR."				
B. Henwood, b Vatcha	3			
J. Pollecutt, run out	13			
Mr. Shettle, R.N., c Cooper, b Vatcha	18			
Rev. E. Good, R.N., c Pestonji, b Vatcha	14			
Mr. Presley, R.M.A., b Vatcha	13			
Mr. Sutton, R.N., not out	38			
H. Beer, not out	10			
C. Hill				
J. De la Motte				
J. Morrison				
Mr. Snape				
Extras	3			
Total (for 5 wickets)	112			

FOOTBALL.

SEMI-FINAL FOR THE SHIELD.

The semi-final stage in the Shield competition was reached on Saturday, 16th inst., when the 15th Company (Siege Train), Southern Division, Royal Garrison Artillery, met the Victoria Recreation Club on the ground of the Hong-kong Football Club at Happy Valley. The weather was fine and the ground in good condition, and with a large crowd of spectators lining the ropes everything promised well for a good match. The Siege Train were easily the favourites, but the "Vics" have greatly improved on their form of last year, and were expected to make a good show. The referee's whistle saw the following players line up:—

V. R. C.—Goal—Gidley; backs—Fittock and Duncan; half-backs—Loureiro, Lapsley, and Howarth; forwards—Seth, Yule, Brett, Herton, and Henderson.

Siege Train.—Goal—Field; backs—Moorhouse and O'Brien; half-backs—Harman, Nicol, and Suttie; forwards—Gettling, Cleve, Phinn, Blair, and Bond.

The Siege Train kicked off facing the west goal, and in less than half a minute had the ball netted. The goal was a very easy one, the "Vic" defences, who evidently did not expect a visit from their opponents quite so soon, entirely failing to repel an attack that could have been turned. Two minutes later, following play from the centre kick, the "Vic" goal

was saved just in time by a foul for off-side against the Siege Train. Seth took charge when the ball left Duncan, and carried the field into Siege Train territory. Suttie stopped the rush, and centred. Phinn took up play, and passed judiciously to Cleeve, inside right, who tried a long shot for goal. Gidley met the ball, but although he sent it well out the Siege Train forwards captured in centre and again forced the play. A scrimmage in dangerous proximity to Gidley's charge found relief in a second free kick against the Siege Train on the same grounds as the first—offside, Blair being the offender. Even with this advantage the "Vics" found themselves hemmed in in their own territory, which was not ultimately cleared until the leather was sent past. The result of the game was now a foregone conclusion, the "Vics" up till now never having had even a look-in against the Siege Train, whose backs lay up to the centre mark most of the time. A foul against Henderson, outside left, resulted in the Siege Train securing a corner, which remained unconverted, Bond topping the net and giving away a good opening. Yule took up play from the goal kick, and was successful in getting past the halves. Moorhouse, however, settled matters by the simple expedient of footing the ball to Field, who sent it back into centre. The "Vics" were showing up excellently now, and, contesting pluckily, again got the ball, Seth taking charge. A series of timely passes between him and Yule again brought the "Vics" forwards up to the Siege Train backs, but Moorhouse turned the attack by a strong header. Duncan saved a dropping shot from centre in business-like style, and play on their left wing resulted in a throw-in for the "Vics." They were unable to get away, but a natty situation was this time relieved by Fittock. This gave the "Vics" their chance, and they took advantage of it. The break ended abortively by Brett heading past. Thus play went on till half-time, when the game stood—Siege Train, 1; V.R.C., 0. Only once during this half was the Siege Train goal in what might be called danger. O'Brien, missing a shot from Seth—who came along strongly on the right wing—and hard pressed by that player, thought to remedy the situation by following the example set by Moorhouse in the earlier stages of the game—sending the ball over to Field, the custodian. He did not kick hard enough, however, and Seth, darting round, made a dash past O'Brien. Field got to the ball just in time, and only a pace or two before Seth, who, with luck on his side, would otherwise have evened the score.

On resuming after an interval of five minutes, the Siege Train forwards repeated their tactics at the beginning of the game by carrying operations almost directly into their opponents' territory. A similar result did not attend the attack, however, the ball being sent past. Half a minute later Gidley fluked a shot from the wing, and the Siege Train, promptly following up, netted the ball a second time. A throw-in on the "Vics" left wing followed from the centre kick, and Nicol, getting in front of his man, struck the ball deliberately with his hand when the other player seemed likely to capture. The incident was unnoticed by the referee, but a second or two later Gettings did exactly the same thing when tackled by Howarth. The irregularity did not pass unchecked this time, and a foul was awarded. The "Vics" could not improve on this slight advantage, and Gidley, in returning an easy ball from centre, conceded a corner, which was beautifully placed by Bond. The "Vic" custodian, in a crowded goal, made a good attempt to fist out a header, but the ball glanced over his hand and into the net for the third time. Continuing, the "Vics" were forced to concede two corners in succession—one on their right and another on their left wing. Neither was converted, but the Siege Train had the hardest possible luck in not scoring off the second, the ball striking the bar twice. Taken into centre, the sphere was sent here and there for a time, but again found its way into the ground of the "Vics," and Gidley quite retrieved previous mistakes by stopping a swift shot in close quarters. A break by the "Vics," who appeared to be making one more bid to wipe off part of their defeat, ended, as usual, in a wide ball. Soon after, the Siege Train recorded the softest goal of the match. Blair

sent in a screwed ball from well out that was missed in turn by Fittock and Gidley, the latter foolishly attempting to kick the ball when he had plenty of time to stop it by other and safer means. The fifth goal of the match, sent in by Blair from a long pass across the wing, was almost as easy, Gidley now appearing to be entirely lost and making practically no effort to save it. The game ended in an easy victory for the Siege Train by 5 goals to nil.

As has already been said, the V.R.C. had absolutely no chance in the game, the Siege Train outclassing them in every possible way. The defeated eleven, placed at a disadvantage by their being first of all the lighter team, failed to improve their chances by the studied, careful play that was to be looked for under the circumstances. The only two players on their side were Seth and Lapsley; the latter alone was responsible for the saving of at least one goal in the first half, at a time when the field was clustered round Gidley's charge, by stopping in splendid style two whistling shots from the opposing forwards.

Mr. J. A. Ross again filled the responsible position of referee.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The final competition for the "Gillies" Cup took place on the Association Range. The conditions were the two best aggregates in six competitions, including handicap points, to win the Cup. Ranges, 200, 500 and 600 yards. Rifles or carbines. The following is the order of merit:—

	Average.
Sgt. L. W. Graham	100—91=95.5
Gun. Baldwin	94—91=92.5
" Rattey	84—99=91.5
" Donaldson	91—91=91.
" Lapsley	88—90=89.
" Duncan	89—89=89

HONGKONG.

The German gunboat *Jaguar* arrived from Canton on 19th inst.

Mr. Conger, U.S. Minister at Peking, with Mrs. and Miss Conger, arrived on the 20th inst. by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha steamer *Nippon Maru* from Shanghai.

Colonel The O'Gorman left for Shanghai by the N.D.L.S. *König Albert* on the 20th inst. He will make an inspection of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps and will return to Hongkong early in April.

At about 1 p.m. on Saturday last, a fire broke out on the steamer *Colonist*, anchored off Yaumati. As the outbreak showed indications of proving serious, signals for assistance were hoisted, in response to which boats put off from the different warships in the harbour. With their help the fire was eventually subdued, but not before rather considerable damage was done, the amount of which has not yet been ascertained. Messrs. Dodwell & Co. are the agents for the *Colonist*.

The Annual Inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps will be made by His Excellency Major-General W. J. Gascoigne, C.M.G., on the Polo Ground, Causeway Bay, to-day, at 4 p.m. We are requested by the Commandant of the Corps to say that he trusts that all heads of establishments in which Volunteers are employed will be so kind as to allow them to leave their employment immediately after tiffin on that day, as it is a matter of very great importance that every member of the Corps in the Colony should attend the Inspection, unless he is prevented by illness from doing so.

Mr. E. C. Ray informed us on the 17th inst. that he was in receipt of a telegram from Messrs. Speidel & Co., advising that 12 days' quarantine is established at Saigon against all arrivals from Hongkong. Messrs. Lamke & Rogge also inform us that they received telegraphic advices from Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co., Saigon, to the same effect. A Government notification issued on the 15th inst. contains the following telegram received from H. B. M.'s Consul at Saigon:—"Twelve days quarantine upon arrivals from Hongkong." Saigon also imposes the same restrictions against arrivals from Singapore.

The British cruiser *Edgemon* arrived on the 20th inst. from practice and H.M.S. *Terrible* left for Amoy.

One coolie was killed and another injured on the 17th inst. by the fall of a great quantity of loose material at the building now being erected opposite Douglas Wharf.

A coolie who was undergoing a sentence of three months under the Opium Ordinance died in gaol on the 20th inst., at half-past five. On the 19th inst. another prisoner committed suicide.

A little Chinese girl was admitted to the Tung Wa Hospital on the 20th inst., suffering from injuries to the head and body sustained through a fall down a flight of stairs at 52, West Street.

An auction of old stores was held in the compound at the Central Police Station on the 20th inst. Among the "bargains" were twenty rickshaws for \$31, and No. 5 manual fire-engine for \$80.

Last week 14 cases of bubonic plague and 11 deaths were reported in the colony, against 14 cases and 15 deaths for the previous week. The total number of cases reported to date is 52, with 42 deaths.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 514 non-Chinese and 164 Chinese visited the former institution, 205 non-Chinese and 2,260 Chinese the latter.

A Government Notification published on the 18th inst. says:—"Information has been received from the Consul General for the Netherlands that all vessels arriving at ports of Netherlands India from Hongkong are subject to quarantine on account of small-pox as well as plague."

The final round for the Challenge Cup presented by Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., to the Hongkong Chess Club will be contested between Colonel The O'Gorman and Mr. F. W. Sergeant (holder). The tie will be played off after Colonel The O'Gorman's return from Shanghai.

We received on the 18th inst. from the Colonial Secretary's Office a copy of the following telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Singapore, to the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, dated 17th March:—"No cases of plague at Singapore for 10 days. Clean bills of health issued."

It is proposed to hold an Oxford and Cambridge Dinner this year on the lines of that which was so successful last year, and a circular letter has already been sent out to known members of either University in Hongkong. The date fixed is the 30th inst., the day of the Inter-University Boat-race at home.

The *Government Gazette* announces that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. William Chatham to be Acting Director of Public Works, Water Authority under the Water Works Ordinance, 1890, and Acting Chairman of the Wong-nei-chong Recreation Ground Committee, during the absence on leave of the Hon. Robert Daly Ormsby.

Captain Arthur Blount Cuthbert Williams, Commissariat Officer, China Expeditionary Force, has been promoted to the rank of Major. He served in the Chitral Relief Force under Sir Robert Low in 1895 as Brigade Commissariat Officer, 3rd Brigade, was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with clasp. Major Williams has just completed his twentieth year of service.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Tsoi Chee Mai	\$25
V. H. Deacon	25
Rev. J. S. Wasson	20
Collected at Taikoo Sports	17
Sums under \$5	5

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 18th inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by public auction one lot of Crown land, known as Inland lot No. 1,631, situated at Po Hing Fong and Upper Station Street, Taipingshan. The contents in square feet are 4,200, and the annual rent \$48. The upset price was \$10,500, but competition keen and bidding brisk, it rapidly rose to \$14,500, at which price the lot was knocked down to Lee Chung Sin, who thus pays \$3.50 a foot for the land.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lients. Rowand, Headlam, and Huddleston have been appointed Assistant Marine transport officers in China.

The present Census gives the Rangoon population at 232,236, as against 180,324, in the last Census, or an increase of 51,912.

The three Russian warships *Rossia*, *Petrovsk* and *Giliak* are said to have been seen firing live shells at "dummy" Japanese men-of-war at Chinhaian, which were especially put up for the purpose.

The Chinese Representative in Tokyo is said to have addressed to his Government a memorial of over 200 articles urging the reform of China's administration on Japanese lines. It is added that Viceroy Lin, to whom, in common with other local officials, the memorial was sent by the Throne for consideration, has endorsed many of its recommendations.

The rough totals for the Census at Singapore show the population of the Settlement of Singapore to be 225,371, as against 183,281 at the Census of 1891. The increase thus amounts to 42,090. The population within Municipal limits amounts to 202,936, and outside Municipal limits to 22,435. The increase is, therefore, 41,662 within Municipal limits, and only 428 outside. These figures are of course only approximate.

A public meeting was held at Penang last week to consider the arrangement to be made for the preparation of an address from Penang to be presented to Duke and the Duchess of Cornwall and York, on the occasion of their visit to Singapore. It was decided to present an address, the committee to draw it up being composed of the Resident Councillor, Mr. Vermont, and Mr. Rosa. A committee to present the address was also appointed.

A Washington despatch of the 23rd ult. says: "Concerned at the report of the disaster that had overtaken Consul-General Wildman, the State Department addressed a telegram to United States Despatch Agent Copper, at San Francisco, asking for such information as might be had. To-day the reply was received: "San Francisco, February 23.—*Rio* sunk a few minutes after striking; over one hundred missing. Consul-General Wildman and family have undoubtedly perished." Seven applications already have been filed at the State Department for the Hongkong consulate.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 22nd March.—Still no arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 22nd March.—The upward tendency continues, market being brisk. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.55 to \$8.60 pcl.
do. " 2, White..... 7.75 to 7.80 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.60 to 5.65 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.45 to 8.50 "
do. " 1, White..... 7.60 to 7.65 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.65 to 5.70 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.55 to 5.60 "
Fochow Sugar Candy.....12.55 to 12.60 "
Shekloong "11.65 to 11.70 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd March.—The prices are nearly the same as last reported. Quotations are:—
Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.70 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality 2.90 to 2.95
" Long 3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1 3.30 to 3.35
" White..... 3.75 to 3.80
" Fine Cargo 4.05 to 4.10

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *America Maru*, sailed on the 7th February. For San Francisco:—70 pkgs. tea, 7 cases silk. For Valparaiso:—3 cases silk. For Guayaquil:—5 cases silk. For Callao:—10 cases silk. For Toronto:—1 case silk. For New York:—2 cases silk, 135 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Folmina*, sailed on the 1st March. For New York:—2,363 bales hemp, 1,729 pkgs. fire crackers, 185 bales split bamboos, 100 boxes cassia, 170 cases blackwoodware, 90 bales rattan, 75 pkgs. preserves, 80 bales feathers, 15 cases bamboo fans, 30 cases ginger, 5 cases bristles, 1,416 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Gaelic*, sailed on the 24th Feb. For San Francisco:—353 pkgs. tea. For Montreal:—375 pkgs.—20,744 lbs. tea, from Foochow. For New York:—434 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Parramatta*, sailed on the 2nd March. For Manchester:—2 bales waste silk. For London:—917 boxes tea from Foochow, 20 cases bristles, 1 case silks, 2 boxes books, 1 box cloth, 4 boxes charts. For Lyons:—192 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—10 bales raw silk, 55 bales waste silk, 2 cases curios.

Per steamer *Hongkong Maru*, sailed on the 4th March. For San Francisco:—4 pkgs. tea, 1 case silk. For La Libertad:—2 cases silk. For San José de Guatemala:—1 case silk. For Corinto:—3 cases silk. For New York:—25 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Izion*, sailed on the 5th March. For London:—30 boxes—630 lbs. scented caper, 1,918 bales hemp, 419 bags gum, 10 cases preserves, 800 cases preserves, 30 cases cantharides, 20 cases blackwoodware, 7 cases vermilion, 10 cases bristles, 18 pkgs. shell, 38 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Hamburg:—239 bales canes. For Glasgow:—2 cases Chinaware.

Per steamer *Molacca*, sailed on the 8th Mar. For New York:—2 cases blackwoodware. For Manchester:—50 bags waste silk. For London:—30 bags waste silk opt. Manchester, 60 rolls matting, 22 pkgs. tea, 77 cases woodware, 17 cases Chinaware, 4 cases China silk, 1 box curios, 8 cases cigars, 1 box feathers, 1 case ore, 1 case paper, 20 cases P. effects.

Per steamer *City of Peking*, sailed on the 14th February. For San Francisco:—293 pkgs. tea, 10 cases silk. For San José de Guatemala:—3 cases silk. For Corinto:—7 cases silk. For Champerico:—1 case silk. For La Libertad:—1 case silk. For Acajulas:—2 cases silk. For Santa Arimas:—2 cases silk. For Panama:—17 cases silk. For Guayaquil:—3 cases silk. For Callao:—6 cases silk. For New York:—5 cases silk.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 1,650 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$90, 700 bales No. 12 at \$87.50 to \$92.50, 100 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$97, 1,050 bales No. 20 at \$96.50 to \$100. *White Shirtings*: 1,000 pieces No. 700 at \$6.50, to arrive. *P. Reds*: 500 pieces 1½ lb. Mandarin at \$1.50. *Lawns*: 2,000 pieces Brown Stag at \$0.75.

METALS.—*Round Squire and Flate Iron*: 1,680 piculs at \$4 to arrive, 420 piculs at \$3.95 to arrive. *Iron Wire Nails*: 300 kegs at \$3.15 to arrive.

COTTON YARN.— per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$76.00 to \$109.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.— per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.15 to 2.25
7 lbs. 2.40 to 2.55
8.4 lbs. 2.90 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs. 3.70 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.60 to 2.80
58 to 60 " 3.25 to 4.05
64 to 66 " 4.30 to 5.55
Fine 5.20 to 7.90
Book-folds. 4.40 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.78 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.75 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.00 to 2.25
6lbs. (32 ") , Mexs. 1.95 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ") , " 2.85 to 3.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. 4.25 to 7.10

FANCY COTTONS.—
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. 1.55 to 5.00
Brocades—Dyed to
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.22½
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS.— per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet..... 6.40 to 10.00
Assorted..... 6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....12.50 to 32.00

METALS—

per picul
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 8.00 to 20.00
Assorted }
Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00
per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00
Iron—Nail Rod 4.20 to
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.20 to
Swedish Bar 7.50 to
Small Round Rod 4.50 to
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 5.50 to
Wire 15/25 8.00 to
Old Wire Rope 2.50 to
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 9.25 to
Australian 9.00 to
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.50 to
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to
New Chops 14/20 oz. — to
Composition Nails..... 63.00 to
Japan Copper, Slabs..... 43.00 to
Tin..... 60.00 to
per box.
Tin-Plates 6.80 to
per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ½ 5.50 to

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 22nd March.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—
Telegraphic Transfer 1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 2/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0½
ON PARIS.—
Bank Bills, on demand 2.48
Credits, 4 months' sight 2.53
ON GERMANY.—
On demand 2.01½
ON NEW YORK.—
Bank Bills, on demand 48½
Credits, 60 days' sight 49½
ON BOMBAY.—
Telegraphic Transfer 147½
Bank, on demand 148
ON CALCUTTA.—
Telegraphic Transfer 147½
Bank, on demand 148
ON SHANGHAI.—
Bank, at sight 71½
Private, 30 days' sight 72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—
On demand 2½ p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—
On demand 2½ p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—
On demand 1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—
On demand 118½
ON HAIPHONG.—
On demand 2½ p.c. m.
ON SAIGON.—
On demand 2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—
On demand 61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 10
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 52.25
BAR SILVER per oz. 27½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Plassy* (str.), *Idomeneus* (str.), *Agamemnon* (str.), *Ajax* (str.), *Stentor* (str.), *Bombay* (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Tanta* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Banca* (str.), *Bingo Maru* (str.), *Annam* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Freiburg* (str.), *Stuttgart* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Bamberg* (str.), *Sibiria* (str.), *Freiburg* (str.), *Marburg* (str.), *Savoia* (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.—*China* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Queen Adelaide* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), *Nippon Maru* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Gymeric* (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Strathgyle* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—*Suisang* (str.).
FOR STRAITS, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—*Margon* (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Taiwan* (str.), *Rosetta Maru* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—*Melpomene* (str.).

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 22nd March.—During the past week a fair general business has been transacted, but rates have not shown much strength, and at the close are in some instances weak.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at 355, 353, 352 and 351 per cent. premium for cash and the end of the month, and close quiet with probable sellers at 350 per cent. premium. The London rate is wired at £60. 10s. Nationals continue in request at \$264.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have advanced in favour and are wanted at \$205. China Traders have been placed at \$54, a decline of \$1 on the week, and have further sellers at the rate. North Chinas have been sold at Tls. 182½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been disposed of at \$291, and more can be obtained at this figure. China Fires have improved a little and have been placed at \$77.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continued to decline during the earlier part of the week, and sales at \$33, \$32½ and \$32 have been effected. A slight recovery has since taken place, and there are buyers now at the last named figure. Indo-Chinas have ruled erratic, sales having been booked at \$116, \$117, \$118, and latterly at \$117, the market closing with sellers at \$117½. On time business has been done at \$120 for April and \$122 for June. China Manilas, old, have declined to \$65 sellers, and the new shares to \$38, at which rate sales have been effected, the market closing with further buyers. Douglases have been booked and are on offer at \$48½. Star Ferries, old, are wanted at \$21, and the new shares at \$7. Of the latter stock a very fair business has been done at quotation and at \$6.90.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars and Luzons have been quite neglected during the interval, and have sellers at \$139 and \$39 respectively.

MINING.—Punjoms have been placed at \$4½ and are obtainable at that rate. Raubs have been booked at \$42, and at equivalent rates on time, the market closing quiet at \$41.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in fair request, and sales have been effected at advancing rates up to 605 per cent. premium for cash and the end of the month, and at 675 per cent. for April, and 685 per cent. for May. The stock closes steady at quotations. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been placed at \$92½, but have since receded to \$92, at which a few shares are obtainable. Wanchais continue in request at \$63. New Amoy Docks are obtainable at \$24.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been done in fair parcels at \$197, \$196 and \$195 for cash and the 30th inst., and close with sellers at \$196. Kowloon Lands have been placed at \$28. West Points at \$49 and more ought to be got at this figure. Hongkong Hotels have declined under settlement influences to \$124, at which shares are obtainable. Orientes have been placed and have sellers at \$80. Humphreys Estates have been negotiated in large lots at \$124, \$12 and \$12.15, and close with a few buyers at \$124.

COTTON MILLS.—No business to report under this head, the market closing flat at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been in good request and have been placed at \$20. The stock closes with a few sellers at this figure, but shares are not now so easily obtainable as formerly. Watsons are wanted at \$16. Electrics are in the market at quotations. Ropes are quiet at \$157½. Fenwicks have been placed and have sellers at \$55. Ices are obtainable at \$160. Tramways are wanted at \$200. Dairy Farms have declined to \$7, at which a few shares have changed hands. China Providents have been placed in fair lines at \$94, and further shares are to be had at this figure. Watkins have declined and have sellers at \$10½ ex dividend of \$1.20 paid on the 20th instant.

CIGAR SHARES have been placed at quotation, and close with sellers of Hensianas at \$100 and buyers of Favoritas at \$850.

MEMOS.—China Sugar Refining Co., Limited, and Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited, ordinary yearly meetings on the 27th instant. China and Manila Steamship Co., Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 23rd instant.

Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 28th instant, transfer books closed from 20th to 28th instant. Queen Mines, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 27th instant, transfer books closed from the 21st instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(350 p. ct. prem. = \$562½. L'don, £60. 10s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$20½, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$20½, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$1.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$130, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited..	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$850, sales
Hensiana, Limited...	\$100	\$100, sellers
La Favorita, Ltd. ...	\$500	\$750, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Hongkong	\$100	\$13, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$20, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$130, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$10	\$13, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways {	\$5	\$7, sellers
Hk. Steam Water {	\$100	\$200, buyers
boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$7.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$124, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$160, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$92, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$157½.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	665 p. ct. prem. = \$9564.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$150.
China Fire	\$20	\$77, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$54, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$291, sales & sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 182½, sales
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$265, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$118.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$196, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$124, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$28, sales
West Point Building	\$50	\$49, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$39, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$315, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	nominal.
Do. Preference ...	\$1	40 cents
Jebebu	\$5	\$5.
Queen's Mines, Ltd...	25c.	nominal.
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$2, sellers
Do. B....	\$4½	\$1, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$4.50, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.20.
Raubs	18	\$41.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$24, sellers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$65, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$20	\$38, sales & buys.
China Ordinary	\$10	\$12.
Do.	\$5	\$7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$48½, sellers
H., Canton and M....	\$15	\$32, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$117½, sellers
Shell Transport and } Trading Co.	£1	£3. 4s. sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	(\$21, buyers \$7, buyers
Tebrun Planting Co....	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8½.
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	\$63, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$16, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$5.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—

ARRIVALS.

16, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.	16, Macedonia, British str., from Swatow.	16, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.	16, Flandria, German str., from Shanghai.	16, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	16, Akashi Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.	16, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.	16, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.	17, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.	17, Deucalion, British str., from Yokohama.	17, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	17, Melpomene, Austrian str., from Trieste.	17, Thales, British str., from Swatow.	17, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.	17, Toonan, American str., from Canton.	17, Onsang, British str., from Moji.	17, Elita Nossack, German str., from Bangkok.	18, Airlie, British str., from Kobe.	18, Kutsang, British str., from Java.	18, Ivy, American ship, from Shanghai.	18, Chiyuen, Amr. str., from Shanghai.	18, Peiyang, German str., from Wuhu.	18, Apenrade, German str., from Shanghai.	18, Taishun, American str., from Shanghai.	19, China, Austrian str., from Moji.	19, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Chefoo.	19, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.	19, Bayern, German str., from Yokohama.	19, Empress of China, Brit. str., from V. couver	19, Loksang, British str., from Shanghai.	19, Ichang, British str., from Canton.	19, Macedonia, British str., from Canton.	19, Annam, Danish str., from Shanghai.	19, Clara, German str., from Hoihow.	19, Murex, British str., from Shanghai.	19, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.	19, Konig Albert, Ger. str., from Hamburg.	19, Jaguar, German gunboat, from Canton.	19, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.	19, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.	19, Nanshan, U.S. storeship, from Woosung.	19, Benclench, British str., from London.	20, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.	20, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.	20, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.	20, Maiduru Maru, Jap. str., from Tamqui.	20, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.	20, Serbia, German str., from Hamburg.	20, Hanoi, French str., from Hoihow.	20, Hue, French str., from Hoihow.	20, Prosper, Norw. str., from Shanghai.	20, Rajuburi, German str., from Manila.	20, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.	20, Ilscos, American str., from Manila.	20, Endymion, British cruiser, from practice.	20, Flandria, German str., from Canton.	20, Wosang, British str., from Wuhu.	20, Hong Wan I, British str., from Straits.	21, Banca, British str., from Shanghai.	21, Decima, German str., from Saigon.	21, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.	21, Thales, British str., from Swatow.	21, Glengyle, British str., from London.	21, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.	21, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	21, Pakshan, British str., from Koh-si-chang.	21, Pompey, American str., from Manila.	21, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.	21, Sevastopol, Rus. battleship, from Colombo.	21, Hunan, British str., from Canton.	21, Kwangse, British str., from Canton.	22, Queen Adelaide, Brit. str., from Shanghai.	22, Albenga, German str., from Japan.	22, Cowrie, British str., from Moji.	22, Pronto, German str., from Iloilo.	22, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.	22, Hoihow, British str., from Swatow.	22, Asturia, German str., from Manila.
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March—

DEPARTURES.

16, Bengal, British str., for Europe.	16, Vale of Doon, British bark, for Rajang.	16, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.	16, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.	16, Pathan, British str., for Moji.	16, P. C. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.	16, Taichow, German str., for Bangkok.	16, Patroclus, British str., for London.	16, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.	16, Toes Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.	16, Diamante, British str., for Manila.	16, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.	16, Hailong, British str., for Haiphong.
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- 16, Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 17, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
- 17, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
- 17, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Macedonian, British str., for Canton.
- 17, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
- 17, M. Jebson, German str., for Haiphong.
- 17, Taifu, German str., for Chefoo.
- 17, Loyal, German str., for Chefoo.
- 17, Emma Luyken, Norw. str., for Saigon.
- 17, Taiyuan, British str., for Moji.
- 17, Flandria, British str., for Canton.
- 18, Eudymion, British cr., for practice.
- 18, Seong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
- 18, Canton, British str., for Canton.
- 19, Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
- 19, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 19, Deucalion, British str., for London.
- 19, C. Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
- 19, Ichang, British str., for Ningpo.
- 19, Radnorshire, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 19, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
- 19, Taishun, Amr. str., for Canton.
- 19, Toonan, Amr. ship, for Ningpo.
- 19, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Hainan, German str., for Chefoo.
- 19, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
- 19, Hailan, French str., for Hsihow.
- 19, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 19, Lothair, Italian bark, for Callao.
- 20, Terrible, British cruiser, for Amoy.
- 20, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
- 20, Konig Albert, German str., for Shanghai.
- 20, China, German str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Annam, Danish str., for Saigon.
- 20, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 20, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
- 20, Ivy, American ship, for Hankow.
- 20, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
- 20, Chiyuen, Amr. str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Melpomene, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
- 21, Murex, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 21, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
- 21, Triton, German str., for Saigon.
- 21, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 21, Szechuen, British str., for Canton.
- 21, Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.
- 21, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
- 21, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 21, Elsa, German str., for Hongay.
- 21, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., for N'chwang.
- 21, Takow, Japanese cruiser, for Port Arthur.
- 21, Banca, British str., for London.
- 22, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, Macedonia, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Airlie, British str., for Sydney.
- 22, Conch, British str., for Palambang.
- 22, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Fausang, British str., for Samarang.
- 22, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
- 22, China, Austrian str., for Calcutta.
- 22, Trieste, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
- 22, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
- 22, Serbia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 22, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for London.
- 22, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. C. Bannister, L. Clark, G. Card, E. Davies, A. Jeffrey, and F. J. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Woodyer, Mrs. C. C. Renton, Lieut. E. A. Baird and Mr. Winning; from Marseilles, Capt. Windham and Comdr. Ricardo; from Gibraltar, Capt. and Mrs. A. J. Durao; from Colombo, Miss L. Bryer; from Singapore, Mr. McCarthy, Miss Turney, Mrs. Kloss, Miss Rodd and Mr. Ishii; from Marseilles, via Bombay for Hongkong, Miss Smee, Messrs. J. Cowdry, Grant and Moss; for Shanghai, from London, Miss E. Bellin, Lieut. J. Leader, Messrs. J. S. Griffiths, G. Thassen, Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh and two children, Mr. T. W. Wendon, Mrs. McPherson, Messrs. J. White, R. A. Connell, A. Paul and Miss Bellin; from Marseilles, Messrs. Steinberg, Orloff, Edward Wheen, A. F. Wheen, G. A. Maitland and Dr. Zabrieski; from Brindisi, Lieut. Dalgety; from Port Said, Mrs. Zabrieski, Miss Zabrieski; from Ismailia, Messrs. E. Alexander, W. S. Wheeler and E. B. Elbin; from Bombay, Mr. A. W. Newton; from Singapore, Mr. H. C. Morrison; for Hiogo,

from Ismailia, Mr. Scott; for Yokohama, from London, Messrs. T. H. Macklin, J. F. A. Robertson Walker and R. Mortimer.

Per *Choyang*, from Shanghai, &c., Master Jas. Wilson.

Per *Annam*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Bolvy, Howard and Nielsen.

Per *Empress of China*, from Yokohama, Messrs. H. T. R. Brayne and E. H. Irwine; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Fraser; from Nagasaki, Mrs. and Miss McCalla; from Shanghai, Mr. Augustus Johnson, Comdr. Grant and Mr. A. M. A. Evans.

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